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# YUGOSLAVIA

*By the same Author*

DALMATIA

(*Philip Allan*)

★

ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY, 1918-1932

(*Nicholson & Watson*)

MURIEL CURREY  
YUGOSLAVIA



*A Guide Book*  
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## GENERAL INFORMATION

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Watering Places—Traditional Festivals—Anglo-  
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## *General Information*

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### RAILWAYS, STEAMSHIP AND AIR LINES

The first question which most people ask when they consider going to a European country is, "What is the journey like?" and "How long will it take me to get there?"

Few countries are so conveniently situated as Yugoslavia from the point of view of international communications. The Orient Express and the fast trains from Calais, Boulogne, Berlin, Vienna, Munich, and Budapest, all traverse the country on their way to Athens and Istambul. Belgrade is about thirty-six hours from London by the Orient Express, and Ljubljana about thirty hours.

Fast trains with Diesel engines are now being introduced on the more important services inside the country. Local trains frequently have only 2nd and 3rd class, the equivalent of 1st and 3rd in Great Britain. Main-line trains usually have restaurant cars operated by the Wagon-Lit Company, and all stations except the smallest country ones, have restaurants or buffets. For long journeys in

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local trains, it is advisable to take food, but mineral water, bottled beer, and fruit can be bought at almost every station *en route*.

Special reductions in fares, not merely for the return journey but also for journeys inside the country, are offered to visitors. Full details of these tickets, and the tickets themselves, can be obtained from the Yugoslavia Express Agency, 25, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1.

Passenger ships run every day from Venice and Sušak to ports on the Dalmatian Coast. It is possible to go on a regular cruise all the way down the coast to Kotor and back, with sufficiently long halts in each place for the important and interesting sights to be seen. There are also local lines, whose boats ply between the mainland and the islands. All the larger ships are built like small liners, with comfortable cabins, baths, public rooms, and a first-class cuisine. At all times, and especially during the holiday months, it is essential to book cabins in advance through the Yugoslavia Express Agency.

The Yugoslav air-line company covers all the larger cities of the country, and the other European companies have connections to and from the country. Services are being constantly improved and extended, and for exact details one

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should ask for the latest information at a travel office.

### HOTELS

Roughly one hundred new hotels have been built in Yugoslavia during the past five years, and over one hundred and fifty have been modernised to meet the requirements of the ever-growing numbers of visitors from abroad. Many of the newer hotels have their own beaches, tennis-courts, and fishing facilities. Details of the latest hotels to be opened are in the hands of the Yugoslavia Express Agency, to whom one should apply for illustrated prospectuses.

Unless *en pension* terms are specially arranged, all meals, including breakfast, are paid for at the time. The same rule generally applies to wines, etc., whether one is staying *en pension* or not. Both food and accommodation are cheap in Yugoslavia, but visitors are warned to discredit the fantastic legend that Yugoslavia is a country where one may live in luxury for three shillings a day.

### SPORT

The majority of the popular European sports can be enjoyed in Yugoslavia. Golf of a roughish kind is to be had in such well-known centres as

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Bled. Fishing is popular, and trout-fishing in Slovenia, Bosnia, Montenegro, and the lake of Ohrid can be recommended. Permits for fishing are generally required, but are best obtained locally. The hotel manager would be the best source of exact information on this subject. Salt-water fishing is regarded more as a profession than a sport, but it is not uncommon for visitors on the Dalmatian Coast to go out with the "locals" at night. Coral-fishing is particularly popular in the neighbourhood of Šibenik.

For shooting, game is plentiful and varied. Grouse are to be had almost everywhere, with wild goat and chamois in Slovenia, wild boar and fox and hare in Slavonia, wild boar and black bear in Bosnia, and wild boar, bear, and lynx in the higher regions of the South Serbian mountains. Pheasant-shooting is confined to special reserves.

The Cayak method of canoeing has become popular in Yugoslavia since the war. The more interesting rivers for such journeys are the Tara, Drina, and Neretva, in the territory of Bosnia and the old Montenegrin frontier.

Winter sports have made great strides in the last few years, not only so far as the Yugoslavs themselves are concerned. The main districts for ski-ing are in the north, near the former Austrian

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frontier, and thus the best districts lie even nearer to London than is commonly supposed. Gorensko and Kranjska Gora are the chief centres in Slovenia, and in the other districts the following are worth mentioning : Jahorina in Bosnia, Šar Planina in South Serbia, and Kopaonik in Serbia. All these have hotels which remain open throughout the season. Bled is popular for skating competitions, which are held on the famous lake. Ski-ing competitions are held regularly at Planica in Slovenia, where the record ski-jump has been built.

## YUGOSLAV CUISINE.

It was a Frenchman who once said that he could detect any man's nationality by sampling what he ate. If this is true, the same Frenchman would very soon realise that the Yugoslavs are descended from a mixture of races and nationalities. In what they eat there is the influence of the East and the West, of Turkey in one course and of France in the next.

The mainstay of every Belgrade "Kafana" (literally coffee-house, but generally more of a restaurant) is its grill. The two most popular dishes are *cevabčici* and *raznici*. The former consists of a number of tiny skinless sausages grilled slowly over a charcoal heat, which gives them



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their distinctive flavour. They are usually served with onion or hot paprika—the latter a subject to be tackled with a certain caution on the part of the initiate ! Occasionally they are also served with *kajmak*, which is a Serbian delicacy made of sour clotted cream, somewhat resembling a Cornish cream cheese. *Raznji* consists of small pieces of veal or pork served on little skewers, roasted over the same charcoal grill. The usual price for these dishes is about a halfpenny, or two for a dinar.

Another local dish is *djuvec*, a rich meat stew, which is cooked until all the moisture has evaporated. *Sarma* is a dish which visitors like particularly. It consists of savoury meat rissoles, made up with rice and the whole wrapped in a cabbage leaf. The preparation of *sarma* is a skilled task, since any disturbance while the rissoles are boiling breaks the outer leaf and ruins the contents. *Musaka*, a name frequently found on menus, is a kind of savoury cottage-pie, made of alternate layers of potato and meat, the whole cooked in either milk or *kajmak*. Tomatoes or paprikas stuffed with mince and rice are safely to be recommended, as is *pasul*, a farinaceous course of sharply flavoured beans with finely chopped pieces of salt meat or pork.

The eastern influence can be seen particularly

## GENERAL INFORMATION

strongly in the Yugoslav sweet courses. *Kadaif* and *pahlava* are cereals steeped in a rich mixture of honey, chopped nuts, and raisins. *Halva* is rather similar to the English pastry puff, with a filling of honey and chopped walnuts. *Gibanica* and *guzvara* consist of pastry with a filling of soft Serbian cheese.

There is one very popular food known as *burek*, but it is not as a rule to be had in restaurants. It is sold in special shops, and in prodigious quantities, to the peasants, and consists of innumerable layers of wafer-thin pastry lying between meat, cheese, apple, pumpkin, spinach, and so on. It is an excellent dish when eaten hot, but should be avoided when tepid or cold as the fat tends to congeal. It is eaten by peasants on their way to market in the early mornings, and is accompanied by draughts of *Sumadija* tea—a fearsome drink made largely from honey and plum brandy.

The Belgrade buffets—equivalent to the western snack-bars—offer a considerable variety. *Prsut*, a name commonly seen in such buffets, denotes very thin slices of pork or veal on half a roll. On these various kinds of fish from the Dalmatian coast are also served, as well as black caviare from the Danube and red caviare from the Lake of Ohrid.

The principal drink in these buffets is *rakija*,

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a plum spirit which should be sampled with some hesitation, but it should be added that a good *rakija* can qualify for the title of a liqueur. *Orahovica* is another such spirit made from green walnuts, and is very sweet. Right at the other end of the scale, and very bitter indeed, is *pelinkovica*, distilled from wormwood.

Yugoslav food is rich, in spite of its variation. It should be remembered that the Yugoslav wines are very cheap and of a high quality. Prices vary from sixpence a litre (outside Belgrade) to thirty dinars (about half a crown) for the better varieties. *Ruzica* on wine-cards indicates a *vin rosé*, but in most cases the wine-card is printed in French as well as in Serbo-Croat.

## LANGUAGE

Yugoslavs have resigned themselves to the fact that foreigners cannot speak the beautiful but difficult Serbo-Croat language. A superficial knowledge of German, as the present writer can testify, will enable one to travel all over the country without difficulty, and in the leading hotels it is justifiable to expect either French or English to be understood. For the intelligible pronunciation of place-names, however, the following rules should be remembered:

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Vowels are pronounced as in Italian or German:

*a*—ah; *e*—a; *i*—ee; *o*—oh; *u*—oo.

The only differences in consonants are:

*c*—ts; *č*—tch; *č*—ch (as in "church": *h*—ch (as in "loch"): *j*—y; *š*—sh; *ž*—j.

Each letter is pronounced, except a final "j", which serves to strengthen the preceding consonant.

## NOMENCLATURE

Remembering the unhappy fate of the Englishman who was going to Florence and failed to get out of the train at *Firenze*, the Yugoslav names of places have been used throughout this guide. For the benefit of readers who learnt their European geography before the World War, the former Austrian or Italian names have been added in brackets.

## WATERING PLACES

Yugoslavia is particularly rich in spas; baths, waters and treatments of all kinds are available at very moderate cost. These watering places are nearly all situated amid the most delightful scenery and have been charmingly laid out with public gardens, open-air swimming-pools and tennis-courts; in addition to the hotels there

## GENERAL INFORMATION

are restaurants, orchestras and dance floors. All particulars as to treatment and costs can be obtained from the Yugoslavia Express Agency.

### TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS.

The peasant population of Yugoslavia remain faithful to many of their old customs, and peasant dresses are among the finest to be seen in Europe. The following list of annual festivals should be of use to visitors in planning their itineraries. Special events, as opposed to the following annual festivals, are frequently arranged, and are announced at the beginning of each year. Details of these can be obtained from the Yugoslav Express Agency.

#### *January*

- 6-9. All over the country: Religious ceremonies and old national customs on the occasion of the Orthodox Christmas.

#### *February*

- 2-3. Kotor: Festival of St. Triphun, Patron Saint of the sailors of the Bay of Kotor. • Festival day of the Noble Body of Mariners of the Bay of Kotor, the oldest seamen's corporation in Europe, founded in the year A.D. 809. Sailors parade in beautiful costumes of the Middle Ages. Popular dances and picturesque national costumes.

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### *February* •

- 3-6. Dubrovnik: Festival of St. Blaise (Sveti Vlaho), Patron Saint of the town. Picturesque dances and national costumes.
- 11-14. Sarajevo, Mostar, Skoplje: The Courban Bairam Mahometan Festival.

### *March* •

- 19. Maribor: Popular festival of St. Joseph.

### *April* • • •

- 17. In all the orthodox districts: Children's Spring Festival. "Vrbica". Religious festivals, processions of children. Traditional and national costumes.
- 23. Senj: Festival of St. Julian, Patron Saint of the Bay of Senj. National costumes and popular dances.

### *May* •

- 7. Split: Festival of St. Dujë, town Patron Saint. Religious processions and popular amusements. Picturesque parade of local national costumes.
- 8. Gračani (near Zagreb). St. Michael's Festival. Religious procession and folklore display.
- 10. The Town of Hvar: Festival of St. Prosper. National costumes and popular dances.
- 15. Kotor-Perast: Solemn translation of the miraculous picture of the Holy Virgin from the island of Skorpiela to Perast. Procession in sailing- and fishing-boats. National and traditional costumes.

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### *June*

6. Remete (near Zagreb): Religious procession. National costumes.
9. Skoplje: Picturesque national amusements in the village of Rastak. Parade of beautiful national costumes.
22. Čučar (South Serbia): Interesting national festivities. Picturesque national costumes.
27. Bled. "Vidovdan" eve celebrations and illuminations on the lake. National festivities.
28. All over the country: "Vidovdan" traditional festival. Day of commemoration for the men who died for their country. Requiems. Troop Reviews.
29. Kotor-Perast: Commemoration day of the victorious defence of Perast against the Turks in 1637. Procession of boats. Review of sailors in national and traditional costumes.
29. Korčula: Local national festival. Folk dances and ancient local customs. "Moreška" dance dating from the Middle Ages. National costumes.

### *July*

3. Ohrid: Popular rejoicings at the feast day ("Slava") of the Monastery of St. Naum. Picturesque national dances and costumes.
7. Monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski (South Serbia): Religious celebrations. Popular festivities. Beautiful national costumes.
12. Bitolj: Great national celebration and pilgrimage

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### *July*

- to the Commemoration Chapel on the summit of Mt. Kajmakalan (2,521 m.) erected to the memory of fallen heroes.
- 12. Cetinje: Festival of "St. Peter's Day", national Montenegrin festival. Folk dances, jousting. Beautiful national costumes
- 12. Galičnik: Group marriages, which, in accordance with ancient custom, are only performed on St. Peter's Day (Petrov dan).
- 25. Šibenik: Religious celebrations, national dances and costumes on the feast day of St. Jacques.
- 25. Marina (near Trogir): Ancient religious festival in the grotto of St. Jakov. Curious and very interesting folklore displays.
- 25. Rogaška Slatina: Firework illuminations at the central establishment and in the park on the eve of St. Anne, Patron Saint of the Spa.
- 26. Festival of St. Anne. Great Gala and Ball at the Casino.
- 26-27. Šibenik: Festivals of St. Anne and St. Christopher. Folk dances. Parade of national costumes.
- 26. Korčula: Fair. Old-fashioned dances. Beautiful national costumes.
- 29. Festival of St. Theodor. Folklore displays.

### *August*

- 2. Banjane (near Skoplje): Popular amusements. Exquisite costumes dating from the Middle Ages.
- 2. Senj: Fair. Beautiful national costumes.



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### *August*

2. Knin: Fair Folklore celebrations.
2. Town of Hvar: Festival of St. Stevan, Patron Saint of the town. Popular amusements.
9. Niš: Festival day of the Patron Saint St. Panteley. Country dances and national costumes.
10. Gipsy fair. Gipsy dances and costumes.
- 14-15. Sinj: St. Mary's festival. Religious celebrations, folk dances and national costumes.
15. Zagreb: Pilgrimage to the Church of St. Mary of Bistrica. Curious customs and picturesque national costumes.
15. Remete (near Zagreb): Festival of the Assumption. Religious procession. Beautiful national costumes.
15. Sušak: Festival of the Holy Mother of Trsat. Commemoration of the Counts of Frankopan.
15. Kotor: Festival of the Holy Virgin of Skrpelja, near Perast. Popular dances and national costumes.
17. Šibenik: Festival of the Holy Virgin at the village of Vrpolje. Folklore celebrations. Sale of national work: handmade materials and embroideries, etc.
19. Monastery of Žiča (near Kraljevo): Festival of the monastery. Popular dances and national costumes.
20. Lazarpolje (near Gostivar, South Serbia): Group marriages, peasant weddings. Exquisite national costumes. Dances and popular customs.

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### *August*

21. Sinj: National medieval jousting tournament of the "Alkars". Horsemen, galloping past a ring (the "alka") hanging on a cord, must unhook it with their lances. This event, one of the greatest attractions in Yugoslavia, was inaugurated to commemorate a victory over the Turks by the men of Sinj at the beginning of the XVII century. The magnificence of the arms, the costumes of the riders and the harness and trappings of the horses are of extreme interest. The festival is terminated by folk dancing and a medley of beautiful and brilliant national costumes.
28. Kosovo Polje: Great national celebration and religious festival at the monastery of Gračanica, in memory of the men who died in the battle of Kosovo, 1389.
28. Monastery of Savina (Bay of Kotor): Patron Saint's Day festival. Brilliant procession. Popular amusements. Traditional customs and beautiful costumes.
28. Debar (South Serbia): Patron Saint's Day festival at the Monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski. National dances and magnificent costumes.

### *September*

6. Throughout the country: National festivities on the occasion of the birthday of H.M. King Peter II. Religious services. Troop Reviews.

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### *September*

8. Split: Fair at Solin (Sulina). Interesting folklore displays.
8. Šibenik. Religious processions and religious ceremonies at the Holy Virgin festival. Folk dancing and national costumes.
11. Dubrovnik. Second festival ("Slava") of the Monastery of St. John Bigorski. Popular amusements. Beautiful national costumes.
29. Split: National costumes and interesting dancing at the Trilj Fair.

### *October*

2. Knin: Popular fair at Vrhika. Picturesque national costumes.
8. Gračani (near Zagreb): Religious procession. Parade of national costumes.
7. Monastery of Žiža: Festival of St. Simon. Religious ceremonies. Popular amusements. Beautiful national costumes.
9. Throughout the country: Anniversary of the tragic death of King Alexander I, the Unifier. Requiems in all the churches. Pilgrimage to the tomb of King Alexander at Oplenac.
14. Knin: Fair. Folklore displays.

### *December*

1. All over the country: National festival commemorating the anniversary of the proclamation of the union of the Kingdom. Religious ceremonies. Troop reviews.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### YUGOSLAV SOCIETIES AND CLUBS

of the interest in the English language literature is to be found in the following list of Societies and Clubs compiled by the British Council for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. British visitors are always welcomed and will enjoy the opportunity of meeting the hosts and of seeing English papers.

Anglo-American-Yugoslav Club in Belgrade is situated in the street beside the New Palace (The Prince Paul Museum). Tea is obtained and books borrowed from the modern library.

1. Anglo - Yugoslav Premises. No library.  
Club,

5 Princa Pavla  
Ulica.

Anglo - American - „ Library.  
Yugoslav Club, 2,400 vols.

Dobrinjska 10/11.

Society of Friends „ Library.  
of Great Britain 1,000 vols.

and America,

Prizrenska 3.

Association of For-

mer Yugoslav

Schoolboys in Great

Britain,

Knez Mihailova 47.

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Belgrade	English Kindergarten, 72 Knežinja Petar- side	Premises.	Library 50 vols
Borovo.	Society of Friends of Great Britain and America		Library 20-30 vols
Ljubljana	English Society in Ljubljana, 8 Kralja Petra Trg	"	Library 1,058 vols
Maribor.	Society of Friend of the English Language and Culture (English Club).	"	Library 840 vols
Niš.	Anglo - Yugoslav Club (English Club). Poenkareova 26.	"	Library 183 vols.
Novi Sad:	Anglo - American Yugoslav Club, Kralja Petra I Ulica 30/1.		Library 200 vols.
Osijek.	Anglo - Yugoslav Club, "Narodni Carino", Osijek.	"	Library 400 vols.
Šabac.	Society of Friends of Great Britain and America in Šabac, Masarykova 24.	No premises	Library- 210 vols.

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Sarajevo.	• Anglo - American Club, • Kralja Petra Ulica • 21/11.	Flat of 5 rooms	Library about 350 vols.
Šibenik.	Society of Friends of Great Britain and America, • Drinska Ulica.	Premises	Library 25 vols.
Sisak.	• English - speaking Society.	• „	40 vols.
Skoplje.	• Society of Friends of Great Britain and America in Skoplje, • Kralja Petra Ulica • 27/11.	• „	12 vols.
Split.	Society of Friends of Great Britain and America, Bernardov Pr. 1/11	• „	500 vols.
Sušak.	English - speaking Society.	• „	20 vols.
Zagreb.	British Society of Yugoslavia, Ilica 12.	• „	None.
Zagreb.	English Club, Ilica 12.		60 vols.
Zagreb.	• English - speaking Society, • Ilica 12.	• „	



## YUGOSLAVIA

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*History—Population—Reorganising the Country—  
Agriculture—Mineral Resources—Industry—Com-  
merce—Communications.*





## *Yugoslavia*

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### HISTORY.

Any adequate history of Yugoslavia would have to deal with the story of the infinite vicissitudes of the Balkan peninsula for 1,200 years, would have to describe the changes and chances of every province and almost every town in the Kingdom, would have to give an account of the successive wars of invasion which swept over that distracted part of Europe up to and including the World War. All that can be attempted in this brief summary is to mention the outstanding events in the years which lie between the first entry of the Slavs into the Byzantine Empire in the VI century and the murder of King Alexander at Marseilles in October 1934.

The geographical configuration of the peninsula has played a great part in determining the fortunes of the inhabitants; mountain ranges, rivers, plains have divided or united them; rival races, religions and languages have added to the confusion and created feuds, hatreds and learned

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controversies. The names of towns, provinces and even families have been changed again and again to conform with the will of the ruler of the moment, while the XX century introduced fresh elements of discord with political quarrels as to whether a man's nationality should be determined by his religion, his race or his language. Even the baldest historical statements are therefore violently assailed by the protagonists of opposing views.

It is, however, generally agreed that the Slavs came from the region of the Bug and the Dneister, north of the Black Sea, and first entered the Eastern Empire in the wake of the Avars in the VI century; it was not an organised invasion but rather a series of waves of emigrants, and the Empire alternately fought them, absorbed them or ignored them. They were scattered, isolated tribes and for many years made no attempt either to combine or to co-operate. The effects of the struggle between the Eastern and Western Churches which was carried on in the Balkans may still be seen today in Yugoslavia. The tribes who eventually reached the Dalmatian coasts, the Croats on the great plain and the Slovenes in the mountain districts to the north, came under the influence of Rome and the Pope, while the Orthodox Church held sway in the rest

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of the peninsula. As a result today—broadly speaking—the Slovenes, the Croats and the Dalmatians are Catholics and use the Latin alphabet, while the inhabitants of the rest of the country are Orthodox and use the Cyrillic alphabet. The situation was still further confused in the early Middle Ages by the rise of the strange Bogomil heresy which swept across Bosnia, most of the nobles in that state eventually preferring to become Moslems rather than to conform to the tenets of either the Orthodox or Catholic Churches.

In A.D. 877 the Byzantine Empire managed to subdue the tribes in the north and west of what is now Yugoslavia, but the conquest only served to unite the Croats, and four years later the Imperial troops were driven out of the country. In A.D. 925 Tomislav, who had organised the victory, was proclaimed King of Croatia and founded a Royal house which survived for nearly 200 years. Under his rule Croatia became a rich and powerful state, commerce and art flourished, parts of northern Dalmatia were added to the kingdom, and the Croatian fleet excited the admiration of Constantine Porphyrogenitos, while their sailors were eventually to become famous—or notorious—as the most daring pirates in the Adriatic.

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Unfortunately the last descendant of Tomislav died in A.D. 1089 and civil war broke out; his widow Helene appealed to her brother, King Ladislav of Hungary, for help and finally a compromise was reached. Croatia and Hungary became a united Kingdom but Croatia continued to enjoy a virtual autonomy; indeed, the "Dukes" who nominally ruled in the King's name were practically independent princes. The union was, however, to last until Croatia and Slovenia were united with Yugoslavia in 1918.

The earliest organised state in the south was that of Chaslo, who died in 960, and Byzantium reconquered his territory. Zeta was the region where the second Serbian state was formed in 1070 and included what is now known as Montenegro and territory to the north and east of Skadar (Scutari); after the foundation of the adjoining kingdom of Raška, Zeta was after a long struggle annexed by its larger and more powerful neighbour. Stephen, who reigned from A.D. 1168 to 1196, was the first of the great Nemanja dynasty; he was succeeded by his son Stephen, "the First Crowned", in whose reign the first and perhaps, ultimately, the most important step was taken which was to lead eventually to the union of the Southern Slavs. His brother,

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Prince Rastko, had left his father's court to enter a monastery on Mount Athos, adopting the name of Sava. At Stephen's instance he left the monastery to undertake the reform of the Church and its emancipation from the rule not only of the Patriarch at Constantinople but also from that of the Greek Archbishop at Ohrid (Ochrid). He travelled to Nicaea, whither the Patriarch had fled after the capture of Constantinople by the Latins in A.D. 1204, and was entirely successful in his mission. The Patriarch recognised the autonomy of the Serbian Church and Sava became its first Archbishop with his seat at the monastery of Žiča, near Kraljevo. In the dark centuries of Ottoman domination, the Church was the only Serbian organisation allowed by the Turks, and kept alive the spirit of Serbian nationality and the dream of future freedom.

Sava, having reorganised and revived the Church, resigned the Archbishopric and went as a pilgrim to the Holy Land, to be later canonised and remembered today as one of the creators of Yugoslavia. A description of the great churches and monasteries which were built as the result of his inspiration will be found in the section dealing with South Serbia.

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With this strong alliance between Church and State, the power and extent of the Serbian kingdom grew steadily; in the east Niš (Nish), the great centre of communications, was captured and King Milutin (A.D. 1282-1321) seized Skoplje in the south and made it the capital. Dušan, who reigned from A.D. 1331 to 1355, was proclaimed there in A.D. 1346 the "Emperor of the Serbs, Greeks and Albanians". It was the golden age of medieval Serbia, and the Empire stretched from the Sava and the Danube to Janina, including most of Albania, Thessaly and Macedonia besides the two former Serbian kingdoms. In A.D. 1349 the Emperor published a code of laws; art, building and commerce all flourished, a brief but brilliant flowering of Slav genius. When Dušan died his Empire fell to pieces, civil war spread from district to district; like the kings and emperors of the day, the Serbian princes quarrelled among themselves, heedless of the relentless advance of the Ottoman armies.

In A.D. 1371 the Turks defeated the Serbian forces on the Maritza—so well known to the British who served on the Macedonian front during the World War; in A.D. 1386 they captured Niš and cut their enemies' communications; three years later there followed the fatal

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day of June 28th when Lazar, the King of Serbia and the flower of Serbian chivalry, fell on the "Field of Blackbirds"—Kosovo.

George Branković, the ruler of what remained of Lazar's kingdom, who came to the throne after the death of Prince Lazar's son Stevan, formed an alliance with the Hungarians and raised the Christian standard again, but the allied armies were defeated at Varna in A.D. 1444. Fifteen years later the "impregnable fortress" of Smederevo was captured and the Serbian kingdom ceased to exist. Bosnia and Hercegovina still remained but they were distracted by quarrels between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches and Bogomil heretics; Bosnia fell in A.D. 1463 and Hercegovina in A.D. 1482.

Meanwhile the Patriarchate had been moved from Žiža to Peć, but in A.D. 1463 it was suppressed, the functions passing once again to the Greek Archbishop at Ohrid, but the priests were Serbs and exercised immense influence over their flocks. In order to retain their estates some of the nobles—particularly in Bosnia and Hercegovina—became Mohammedans and even took service with the Turks; one of such "conversions" had the curious result of restoring the autonomy of the Serbian Church with incalculable results



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for the future. In A.D. 1557 the Grând Vizir, Mehmed Sokolović, was of Serbian origin and owing to his influence the Sultan re-established the Patriarchate at Peć. Sokolović appointed as the Patriarch a relation of his own, Makarije, who was a monk in St. Sava's monastery on Mount Athos. Once again there was a rallying-point for Serbian patriotism and culture and gradually the Church came to represent its members not only in spiritual but in temporal matters in dealing with the Sublime Porte.

Succeeding Patriarchs began to take part in the organisation of revolts against the Turks and even sent missions in search of help to Russia, Moldavia and Rome. In the Austrian-Turkish wars of the XVII century large numbers of Serbian volunteers were serving in the Austrian armies against their hereditary foes. The position of the Patriarch at Peć became untenable and in A.D. 1690 Arsenius III led 10,000 families across the Danube into Austrian territory, where many Serbs were already established. His successor managed to make his peace with the Turks, but his successor in turn stirred up rebellion, escaping with difficulty from his enraged overlords, who finally in A.D. 1766 suppressed the Patriarchate. This, however, was not of great

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importance, in the development of the national movement, as a new Patriarchate had been established at Sremski Karlovci, then in Austria, which became a new centre for co-operation for Serbs on both sides of the frontier.

The French Revolution, which was to change the course of European history for good or evil, had its repercussions in the Balkan peninsula. Napoleon created his short-lived Illyrian Kingdom of Dalmatia, Western Croatia and Slovenia, the first union of much of that territory since the days of the Croatian kings. The confusion in the Turkish dominions, caused largely by the interference of the Janissaries in politics, had increased and Serbs began again to dream of freedom; in A.D. 1787 a peasant, Kara George, had slipped across the Sava to fight for the Austrians; he returned to lead a revolt in his own country which broke out in A.D. 1804. In the beginning it met with unexpected success but in A.D. 1813 it had ended in apparently complete disaster. There followed the usual Turkish massacres, but only two years later a new leader, Miloš Obrenović, arose who, in less than six months, had driven the oppressors out of the greater part of the country. With the final overthrow of Napoleon the Great Powers had time to interest themselves in the

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future of the Serbs, an interest which was to prove both a blessing and a curse for a hundred years.

As a result of their intervention at Constantinople, the Turks gave the newly liberated districts a certain autonomy. Miloš Obrenović acted both as a Turkish representative and as a Christian ruler, and when peace was made between Russia and Turkey in A.D. 1830 he was given the rank of Prince though the country remained under Turkish suzerainty; it had to pay an annual tribute and the Turkish army still garrisoned certain towns. The complete freedom of Serbia did not come with any one sudden and dramatic coup but slowly and with difficulty. Internal quarrels and intrigues distracted the principality; the partisans of the families of Obrenović and Kara-Georgević struggled for power, while Austria, Hungary, Russia and Turkey all helped to keep the Serbs within and without the frontiers from uniting in what ought to have been a common cause. Strangely enough it was Napoleon's Illyrian Kingdom which gave the strongest impulse to the ideal of the union of all southern Slavs. The movement to which it gave birth was indeed in the first instance called "Illyrian". After the Peace of Vienna when these districts came under Austrian or Hungarian

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rule the idea lived on and in 1835 an anti-Hungarian newspaper was founded at Zagreb to further the cause. It also preached the necessity for both the literary and common use of the Serbo-Croat language and prepared the way for a Croat National Assembly which met in Zagreb in 1848. This presented certain demands to the Emperor which included the appointment of a Croat—Baron Jelačić—as governor, the creation of a legislature which should represent Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia, and the official use of the Serbo-Croat language.

The Emperor, anxious for the help of the Croats in the war with Hungary, was liberal in his promises, with the result that Jelačić and 40,000 men went to his assistance and volunteers went from the Principality of Serbia itself to serve with the Austrian army. But when victory had been achieved the Croats felt that they had been cheated of their reward; they had looked forward to the creation of a triune kingdom—Austria, Hungary and Croatia-Slavonia—instead they found that these provinces had merely become Crown lands, while the Serbian district of Hungary was placed under a military governor appointed by Vienna. In 1867, with the creation of the Dual Monarchy of Austria and Hungary, the Yugoslavs became

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bargaining counters in the complicated negotiations between those two countries. Croatia and Slavonia passed under Hungarian rule as did the Serbs in southern Hungary, while Dalmatia and Slovenia remained Austrian. The Croat Diet at Zagreb retained control of justice and education, but it was weakened internally, and in its efforts to resist the Magyarising policy of the Hungarian Government, by disagreements between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

In 1867 Serbia managed to shake off the last fetters which bound her to Turkey and the Turkish garrisons were withdrawn from the fortresses. Hercegovina broke out into revolution in A.D. 1875 and was joined by Bosnia and the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar; next year Serbia declared war on Turkey but the campaign which followed was disastrous, and Serbia was only saved from the consequences by the intervention of Russia. That power declared war in April 1877 and Serbia, after a breathing-space, took the field again and captured Niš. At the Congress of Berlin in 1878 Serbia was recognised as a kingdom and gained three new provinces with 400,000 inhabitants, but Bosnia and Hercegovina fell to the share of Austria-Hungary, to be administered jointly by those two countries.

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The now Royal house of Obrenović, which had ruled—with brief intervals—practically all through the XIX century, died out with Alexander, who was assassinated, and the crown was offered to Peter (1903) a descendant of Kara George, who had married a daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro. Seldom has a new ruler been faced with greater difficulties; gradually, however, by tact and patience, he managed to re-establish respect for Serbia among the European powers.

Two of those powers were beginning to play an increasing part in the politics of the Balkans; the rivalry between Austria and Russia was hastening to a climax which was to lead to the World War. Ties of blood, hatred of the Turks, the centuries' old longing for the possession of Constantinople, all urged Russia to intervene in the affairs of the peninsula, while Austria dreaded and feared the growing strength of the Slav movement.

The first success in this struggle was scored by Austria; in 1908 Russia, defeated and humiliated by Japan, was obliged to stand by helplessly while Bosnia and Hercegovina were annexed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Serbia was compelled to accept a *fait accompli*. It was for the moment the end of the dream of incorporating

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the two provinces with their Yugoslav populations in the Serbian kingdom.

There followed an apparent lull of four years, while the whirligig of Russian-Austrian intrigue went merrily on; Germany, as a result of the "Drang nach Osten", was now taking a hand in the game and angling for the friendship of the newly created Turkish Republic. The year 1912 saw the culmination of a series of negotiations carried on simultaneously between Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro; the Balkan League came into existence and presented an ultimatum to Turkey. The most important clause laid down was that Swiss or Belgian governors should be appointed to administer the provinces inhabited by the Christian subjects of the Republic. The Cabinet in Constantinople refused, and in October the Allies declared war. The Serbian army swept down to the south, defeated the Turks at Kumanovo and captured Skoplje, Priština, Prizren and Bitolj (Monastir); the Montenegrins took Peć, the ancient seat of the Patriarchate. Despite the threats of Austria, Serbia invaded Albania in her search for an outlet to the Adriatic; San Giovanni di Medua, Alessio, Kroja, Tiranna and Elbasan fell into her hands and her Montenegrin allies laid siege

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to Scutari. In December the Turks asked for an Armistice, and two conferences assembled in London, one of the representatives of the Balkan League, the other of the Great Powers, most of the latter very anxious to put their thumbs into the pie and pull out plums for themselves. But while the diplomatists talked the fighting broke out again in February. In March Adrianople surrendered to a combined Serbo-Bulgarian army and in April the Montenegrins took Scutari.

Austria now became thoroughly alarmed at the success of Serbia and particularly feared that she would obtain a port on the Adriatic, which would emancipate her from the economic pressure of the Empire. As an inland country Serbia suffered severely from the transport difficulties which could at any moment be created for her by the Dual Monarchy. When the Peace terms were signed in London on May 13th, 1913, Albania was made an independent state and Serbia was to receive compensation in Macedonia for her failure to obtain a port. This, however, ran counter to the schemes of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who laid claim to the district, and in June 1913 he suddenly attacked his former ally. Bulgaria was quickly defeated and compelled to submit to a humiliating peace; Serbia gained a considerable



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part of Macedonia (from Lake Ohrid to the mountains above the Struma valley), increased her territory from 30,000 square miles to 54,660 square miles and her population from 2,800,000 to over 4,000,000.

Vienna viewed the settlement with jaundiced eyes and it began to be said by the General Staff that the moment was rapidly approaching when Serbia would have "to be dealt with". The Croats and Serbs had come together in the Diet at Zagreb and if a certain amount of contentment had been bought at the price of concessions by Hungary and Austria, the central authorities were by no means sure how long it would continue. Bosnia was seething with unrest and many of its inhabitants were working as openly as they dared for union with Serbia.

To this distracted and rebellious province the heir to the throne of the Dual Monarchy, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was sent on an official visit in June 1914; to many Yugoslavs his presence was at once an insult and a provocation. On June 28th—the day of mourning for the defeat of Kosovo—he drove in state through Sarajevo and he and his wife were shot by the Bosnian student Princip. Whether, as has been whispered, his enemies in Vienna hoped that he would

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return alive, will probably never be known, the Austro-Hungarian General Staff was provoked with the *casus belli* for which they had waited. Both the Ballhausplatz and the Wilhelmstrasse refused to recognise the fact that for the sake of her own prestige, if for no other reason, Austria could not stand idly by while Serbia was provoked, and that her participation meant a European war.

Austria presented an ultimatum to Serbia, and the country did her best to keep the peace by accepting all but one of the demands; without waiting time for the negotiations initiated by Sir Edward Grey in London to find a solution, Austria declared war on July 27th. At first the war went well for Serbia, for the Austro-Hungarian armies had to face north and east to meet the Russian danger, but after the defeats inflicted by Germany, the Dual Monarchy was unable to send overwhelming odds against Serbia, who was also attacked in the rear by Russia. These followed in the terrible winter of 15-16 the tragic retreat over the barren snow-clad mountains of the south, across Bosnia to the Adriatic coast. It was not merely the retreat of an army, it was the migration of a people—old men, women and children—who

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with their King and Government preferred to face death from starvation and cold sooner than submit to the invader. When the spring came, and the Austrians followed the same route, they found it lined with the bodies of those who had fallen by the way. Even ten years later the former Austrian High Commissioner, Baron Sternbach, could hardly bring himself to speak of what he had seen—"it was such a piteous and horrifying sight."

Undaunted, the remnant of the Serbian army was re-armed by the Allies and led by the Crown Prince went to serve on the Macedonian front, while the King and the Cabinet remained at Corfu and most of the civilian survivors were cared for in Corsica.

In the meantime, a Yugoslav Committee was founded and discussions began as to the possible future union of all branches of the Yugoslav race. These discussions were neither brief nor easy; the Croats and Slovenes were alarmed by the Treaty of London which had brought Italy into the war and had promised her territory inhabited by Slavs. They indeed regarded Italy as their enemy and some of the hardest fighting regiments of the polyglot Austro-Hungarian army on the southern front were composed of men from

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Croatia and Slovenia. In those days the utter collapse of the Empire was not foreseen and some of the Croats believed that their future lay in becoming a self-governing unit under Austria.

A joint manifesto of the Serbian Cabinet and the Yugoslav Committee was published on July 20th, 1917, in which it was laid down that there should be a "Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes"; it was to take the form of "a democratic and parliamentary monarchy under the Kara-georgević dynasty" and religious freedom was promised to Orthodox, Catholics and Moslems.

Negotiations continued both among the exiles and among the Yugoslavs, who were still nominally citizens of the crumbling Empire, but the collapse of Austria and Hungary took place before all the questions had been thrashed out. On October 19th, 1918, the Yugoslav National Committee met at Zagreb, its members renounced their allegiance to Austria-Hungary and at the end of November voted for a Serb, Croat and Slovene state, offering the Regency to the Crown Prince and asking him to form a Serb-Yugoslav cabinet. On December 1st, 1918, the establishment of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was officially proclaimed in Belgrade.

The new Kingdom had, however, no inter-

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national status; the delegation to the Peace Conference led by Pasić (a Serb), Trumbić (a Croat) and Žolgar (a Slovene) could only sit and vote as representing Serbia. Lack of space forbids any description of the confusion that reigned in Eastern Europe and which had its reactions in the newly constituted Kingdom. For the same reason it is impossible to follow the tortuous negotiations at the Peace Conference. As the final result of the Peace Treaties with Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria, the newly-formed Kingdom which contained, besides Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Slavonia, Bosnia, Hercegovina and Montenegro—received its final shape.

There remained the thorny question of Dalmatia and the promises made by the Allies to Italy, the situation having been further complicated by the seizure of Fiume by D'Annunzio and his Legionaries in 1919. No solution was found during the Peace Conference nor indeed until Great Britain, France and President Wilson ceased to intervene in the matter and Yugoslavia and Italy were able to settle the matter by direct negotiations. The Treaty of Rapallo (1921) gave all Dalmatia to Yugoslavia with the exception of the town of Zara and the islands of Cherso, Lussin, Lagossa, Plegosa and Lissa; on the other

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hand Italy obtained Istria and a strip of territory which included the important railway junction of San Pietro on the Trieste-Ljubljana line; this meant that 410,000 Slovenes became Italian subjects. Fiume was made into a free city, but this proved quite unworkable and in 1924 it was annexed to Italy by the Treaty of Rome. It cannot be said that either country was contented with the settlement and relations between Yugoslavia and Italy passed through some difficult moments until 1937, when M. Stoyadinović, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, and Signor Mussolini made a determined effort to settle all outstanding matters of dispute and to establish goodwill and friendship.

Even when its frontiers were finally settled the new kingdom had many difficulties to face. It must be remembered that the provinces and the districts which formed the new state had behind them hundreds of years of subjection to diverse and alien rulers. Laws—civil, commercial and penal—had to be codified; neither railways nor roads were adapted to the needs of the new country; a system of taxation had to be worked out, a matter guaranteed to lead to friction under the happiest circumstances and which under the less happy circumstances of the 1920's roused

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endless suspicions. Rich districts were only too ready to complain that they were paying more than their fair share and demanded that the bulk of the money raised for revenue should be spent "at home", instead of being used to help the poorer parts of the country. These retorted by pointing out that many of their needs were the result of the War and that it was only just that the districts which had not suffered should help to repair the devastation. Macedonia was kept in a perpetual state of unrest by the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation which had its headquarters in Bulgaria and terrorised both the local peasants and the Bulgarian Government. The Army, too, had its own troubles; what were to be the ranks and prospects of promotion of officers who had served in the Austro-Hungarian army during the War and wished to continue their professional careers? The catalogue of difficulties and of matters for controversy might be continued, but enough has been said to show how uncalled for were the strictures of certain foreign critics who showed but little sympathy with the growing pains of the new state and but little understanding of the problems that had to be faced.

The surprising thing is not that mistakes were made, but that after only twenty years the

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country should be able to show such remarkable progress.

A National Assembly was elected in 1920 to draft the new constitution and after many heated debates a centralised, as opposed to a federal, state was set up with a single chamber to be elected by manhood suffrage.

If the new constitution did not satisfy everybody and settle all the differences, it gave the country a basis for the introduction of the necessary legislation and for the establishment of necessary order. Political strife continued because the parties that entered the new political life could not get rid of the old spirit which had brought them into being, but had nothing to do with the requirements of the new state. The opposition of the Croat peasant party was active till 1924 when they decided to abandon resistance to the new order, to enter the parliament and swear allegiance to the constitution.

After that date party and parliamentary quarrels took a new form which proved fatal in the end. The wrangling never ceased and ended in murder when, at the end of June 1928, a Montenegrin deputy belonging to the Radical Party drew his revolver and fired at the members of the Croat Peasant Party. Stephan Radić, the leader, was



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severely wounded, his nephew and two other deputies were killed; six weeks later Radić died and the political turmoil in the country increased.

For the next six months King Alexander did everything in his power to induce the warring factions to co-operate, but without success; he was the only man who stood above the party strife and on January 6th, 1929, he suspended the constitution and accepted personal responsibility for the good government of the country. The Skupština, with its unedifying and finally tragic quarrelling, disappeared; the King and his ministers governed by decree, and in one year 183 laws and 583 decrees were put into force.

In October the title of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was abolished and the name Yugoslavia was adopted; at the same time it was announced that the country would be divided into nine provinces—"Banovinas"—which would replace the thirty-seven districts of the 1921 Constitution. These Banovinas with their capitals are—Drava, Ljubljana; Sava, Zagreb; Vrbas, Banja Luka; Primorska, Split; Žetâ, Cetinje; Danube, Novi Sad; Drina, Sarajevo; Morava, Niš; Vardar, Skoplje. Some of them do not correspond to the former historic divisions of the country, so for purposes of clarity for British

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readers, the old names Croatia, Bosnia, etc., have been retained in this book.

On September 3rd, 1931, a new Constitution was published; its most important differences from that of 1921 were—(1) the creation of a senate, very much on the French model: (2) universal manhood suffrage was maintained, but deputies were to be elected by open voting instead of by secret ballot: (3) all political parties were to be on a national instead of on a regional basis—an effort to get rid of the regional disputes which had done so much to wreck the first Skupština. The new Banovinas with their governors (Bans) and provincial councils were to deal with the particular economic needs of the different parts of the country and were to be the first step to creating a system of local self-government.

After a successful tour of the Balkans and a new era inaugurated by the Balkan Pact, at the beginning of October 1934 King Alexander went on a state visit to France. He landed at Marseilles on October 9th, and as he drove through the streets he was murdered by a paid assassin, Georgiev, from Bulgaria. The King himself had made all dispositions for a Council of Regency during the minority of his son, Peter, who was only ten years old when he came to the throne and was

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actually at a preparatory school in England. The Council is composed of the King's cousin, Prince Paul, who finished his education at Oxford, Dr. Stanković, a distinguished doctor and a professor of Belgrade University, and Dr. Perović, who had been the Ban of the Sava Banovina. They have continued the work of King Alexander, striving for peace within and without the country, and they have reaped the fruits of the policy which he so courageously pursued of trying to come to friendly relations with the other Slav state—Bulgaria. With the disappearance of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, whose members finally exterminated each other, the chief cause of friction disappeared, and when in the summer of 1938 Bulgaria announced that she would no longer be bound by the clauses of the Peace Treaty, which limited her army, she met with no opposition from Yugoslavia.

The Royal house of Yugoslavia has many connections with Great Britain; through his mother, who is a daughter of the late Queen Marie of Rumania, the King is a great-great-grandson of Queen Victoria; H.R.H. the Duke of Kent is married to a sister of Princess Paul, the wife of the Regent. Friendship with the British Empire is one of the guiding principles of Yugoslav

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policy and nowhere does the British fleet receive a warmer welcome than on the Dalmatian coast.

The results of this long and tempestuous history are still written plainly in the infinite variety of the towns, the villages, the customs and the dress of the peasants. Beograd, destroyed again and again and always rising Phoenix-like from its ashes, is rebuilding itself as a fine modern capital; Ohrid, with its XII century churches and winding streets, dreams beside its lovely lake; Skoplje, combining old and new where the fortress of Justinian looks out over the Turkish town and the tall buildings of the post-War period; the great Palace of Diocletian at Split, now housing a bustling modern city; Dubrovnik, with its great circle of walls and beautiful palaces still disputing the crown of beauty with its rival, Venice; the churches of South Serbia with their wonderful medieval frescoes; the tiny villages in the mountains where life has changed but little in the last 400 years; Zagreb with its wide streets, its gardens, its opera house, its university, its splendid modern schools—all these are the outcome of fifteen hundred years of struggle, of defeat and of the final victory which united a people and created Yugoslavia.

Nor is the country itself less diverse than the

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works of man. In the north-west these are the great mountain ranges of the Karavanke and the Julian Alps, with Triglav—8,713 feet—as their king; the long line of the Dinaric Alps, their barren limestone cliffs frowning down on the Adriatic; there is the wide fertile plain which stretches from the centre of Slovenia across Croatia to the Danube; Hercegovina, the *karst* country, where the valleys are lakes in the winter and early spring and fields of waving maize in summer; there are the wooded hills of Bosnia and the wild mountains of Montenegro. Nor do the rivers present less strange contrasts; the smooth and placid course of the Danube is suddenly interrupted by the Carpathian mountains, and the wide river has to force its way through the narrow Djerdap Gorge and over the rapids of the Iron Gates; there are the “rock-born rivers” of the *karst* which spring out of the faces of the cliffs to disappear underground and emerge again many miles away; there are little mountain streams, sometimes widening out into a series of brilliant-coloured lakes as at Plitvice, sometimes hurling themselves over precipices on their ways to join one of the great rivers which wind their way across the country.

It is this constant change, this unending

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variety, which makes Yugoslavia one of the most interesting countries in Europe.

### POPULATION

The last census (1931) gave the population as 13,934,038, but in 1936 it was officially calculated that it had increased to 15,173,608. The official language is Serbo-Croat, but Slovene (which differs slightly from Serbo-Croat) is recognised legally for use in Slovenia. In the census 499,326 people gave German as their mother tongue; 468,185 gave Hungarian; 9,396 gave Italian; 342,000 gave Albanian; 132,000 gave Turkish, while there are a certain number of Rumanians in the Banat. The German, Hungarian, Italian and Rumanian minorities have their own elementary and secondary schools, associations and clubs, and the Germans and Hungarians publish a large number of papers and reviews in their own languages. There is a large secondary school for Moslems at Skoplje, chiefly for the training of priests and judges. Civil suits between Moslems are heard in their own courts and decided by the law of the Koran, though if they desire to do so, the disputants can go to the regular Yugoslav courts.

Complete freedom of conscience and religious

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profession is established by the constitution; the census of 1931 gave the following figures:

Orthodox . . . . .	6,785,501
Roman Catholic . . . . .	5,217,847
Greek and Armenian Catholics . . . . .	44,671
Old Catholics . . . . .	7,273
Lutheran Protestants . . . . .	175,279
Reformed Protestants . . . . .	55,890
Other Christian Churches . . . . .	16,208
Moslems . . . . .	1,561,166
Jews . . . . .	68,405
Other religions . . . . .	264
No religion . . . . .	1,107
Religion unknown . . . . .	427

By far the greatest proportion of the population is engaged in agriculture—75·9 p.c.; 9·8 p.c. in industry; 3·2 p.c. in commerce; 3·5 p.c. in public services and the liberal professions; 2·3 p.c. are of independent means; 1·4 p.c. day labourers; 0·5 p.c. in the Army; 1·4 p.c. unclassified.

### RE-ORGANISING THE COUNTRY

Mention has been made of the political difficulties which have confronted the state since 1919; there were as many problems to be solved in every sphere of public life. A civil service had to be built up, a system of taxation devised and a

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single legal code had to be established to supercede the laws in the provinces which had been under foreign rule. To take an extreme example in criminal law: a crime was punishable by two years imprisonment in one province and by two months in another. As one lawyer remarked—"It was like the United States, you had only to go to another part of the country and with any luck you escaped altogether!" . .

All the social services had to be organised. In 1925 Health Co-operative Societies were founded, numbering 21 with 8,386 members; in ten years they had grown to 108 with 56,506 members. They undertook a great campaign of education in personal hygiene among the peasants and co-operated with the state in the provision of medical aid. Malaria, which was endemic in Macedonia, as the British army learnt to its cost, is being stamped out. Marshes have been drained and stagnant pools have been stocked with fish which thrive on the larvæ of mosquitoes. Fountains with good drinking water have been provided for the villages and sanitation is being introduced. New schools, elementary, secondary and technical, have been built and equipped; the Universities at Beograd, Zagreb and Ljubljana have been adapted to the needs of the new king-



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dom. All this is work which needs time and money, and Yugoslavia is only in the process of organising her potential riches, which are very great.

Welfare services for mothers and children are slowly being built up, and kindergartens provided. There are over 700,000 insured workers; the system of insurance covers old-age pensions, accidents, sickness and death. The hours of work and minimum wages are fixed by law, child labour in industry being forbidden. Yugoslavia comes ninth in the list of countries which have ratified the agreements negotiated through the International Labour Office at Geneva.

### AGRICULTURE

As is shown by the figures already given, 75.9 p.c. of the population is employed in agriculture, and in 1930-1 a great reform in the system of land tenure was carried out. In some parts of the country, such as Bosnia and Hercegovina, the old Turkish system had been continued under Austro-Hungarian rule and the peasants were little more than serfs. In other districts there were enormous estates belonging to private individuals, the commune or the state. After a long and careful enquiry these were broken up, the

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owners who did not cultivate their estates being entitled to retain 125 acres; compensation was paid partly in money and partly in government bonds. As a result of this measure five and a quarter million acres became available for small holdings and these were divided among 637,382 families. Land reclamation schemes such as that between Beograd and Pančevo, the building of new villages for ex-service and disabled men, the transfer of population from "congested districts" have all meant a great improvement in the conditions of the peasants.

The area under cultivation in 1936 was 35,927,680 acres—58 p.c. of the total area of the country; 18,450,000 acres were covered with forest—31 p.c.; 6,507,820 acres—10 p.c., consisting mostly of mountains and *karst*, were not cultivated.

The most important crop is maize, both for internal consumption and export; in 1936 Yugoslavia exported 91,000 metric tons, coming only second to Argentine in the world markets; for wheat and other cereals the figure was 30,000 metric tons. Grain is closely followed by fruit, especially pears, both fresh and dried, of which she produces more than any other European country. Tobacco of a fine quality is grown in

## YUGOSLAVIA

the south, a special experimental station having been set up outside Prilep. Except on the high mountains, vines are cultivated all over the country, each district having its special vintages, those from Smederevo and Dalmatia being specially famous. Three thousand wagon-loads of wine are exported annually, either ready bottled or for mixing with the products of other countries.

One thing which will strike the British visitor is the quantity of flowers; every town and village has its public gardens, while there is seldom a vegetable patch belonging to a peasant where he has not also planted flowers for his own pleasure.

There is magnificent pasture-land and a great stock-raising industry; 53,000 metric tons of meat "on the hoof" were exported in 1936. Certain types of light-draught horses are famous and command a ready sale abroad. Pigs are one of the most important exports—301,000 metric tons in 1936, while 15,800 metric tons of poultry and eggs were exported in the same year.

Wealth is not always combined with beauty, but the lovely woods which clothe the hills of Yugoslavia are one of her chief sources of income. Wandering about the country it is possible to see every phase of the timber industry; little saw-mills beside small streams, where the trees are cut into

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lengths and carried away by the same streams to the rivers to be made into rafts; or else large saw-mills worked by steam or electricity with their private railways—and then the endless goods trains which carry the wood out of the country. 524,000 metric tons of timber and 717,000 railway sleepers were exported in 1936.

### MINERAL RESOURCES

Yugoslavia is one of the richest countries in Europe in minerals. Coal, iron ore, manganese, copper, lead, zinc, quicksilver, aluminium, asphalt, antimony and gold are all found, mostly in large quantities. In 1936 the export of heavy metals amounted to 532,000 metric tons; the 685.9 kms. of gold which were mined were kept for internal purposes but it is believed that the mines could be largely developed, and then a certain amount would be available for export.

### INDUSTRY

On January 1st, 1937, there were 2,976 industrial undertakings in Yugoslavia; Novi Sad, Beograd and Zagreb being the chief centres. They employ 374,170 workers, the largest number being in the textile factories—53,273. Industry is almost entirely concerned with the production of

## YUGOSLAVIA

goods for the home market, there being very small exports of manufactured goods.

### COMMERCE

As will have been seen, Yugoslavia's exports consist almost entirely of agricultural produce, timber and minerals; her imports are almost entirely manufactured articles. Like all agricultural countries, she suffered severely from the economic blizzard of 1930, but with the world revival of trade the situation has improved.

In 1936 she imported 3,984 million dinars' worth of goods and exported 4,376 million dinars' worth of produce; in 1937 both figures showed an increase—imports 5,148 million dinars' worth, exports 6,272 million dinars' worth. In the first six months of 1938 her best customers were Germany, Great Britain and Italy; she looks forward to an ever-increasing trade with Great Britain.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Although at the end of the World War the new kingdom was fortunate in receiving as reparations a certain amount of rolling-stock from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the permanent way had suffered severely during the fighting and the systems in the redeemed provinces were both inadequate

## YUGOSLAVIA

and unsuited to the needs of Yugoslavia. Old lines had to be repaired and doubled and new ones constructed; several of these have already been completed and the wonderful bridge over the Danube at Beograd saves a detour of fifty miles, and has shortened the journey to Rumania by eight hours as well as bringing Northern Provinces into direct touch with the capital.

The ports on the Adriatic, particularly Sušak, Split and Dubrovnik, have been immensely developed and play an important part in the export trade of the country. Half the traffic on the Danube is carried on under the Yugoslav flag, while 55 p.c. of the imports and 49 p.c. of the exports pass through the Adriatic ports.

Yugoslavia is one of the best customers of the British shipbuilding yards; nearly all the destroyers, submarines and light craft for her Royal Navy, fine liners like the "Kraljia Maria" and the comfortable passenger ships which sail from Venice and Sušak down the Dalmatian coast, have been built in Great Britain.

Air travel is now being developed both with other countries and internally. It has an important future, specially in view of the natural obstacles provided by mountain ranges which make the building of branch railway lines and

## YUGOSLAVIA

the running of expresses both difficult and expensive.

Much has been and is being done to improve the roads; new ones are being constructed, old ones improved and tarred; the size of the country and the consequent expense means that the work must proceed gradually.

## SLOVENIA

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*Jesenice — Bled — Bohinj — Kranj — Ljubljana*  
*— Maribor — Ptuj — Celje — Rogaška Slatina*  
*— Rimske Toplice — Julian Alps — Karavanke —*  
*Kamnik or Savinja Alps.*





## *Slovenia*

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If it be true that "happy is the country that has no history" Slovenia has certainly been happier than the remainder of Yugoslavia. It was once a prosperous and flourishing part of the Roman Empire, lying on the direct road from the northern Adriatic to Vienna; with the "Decline and Fall" of the Western Empire it suffered from the marching and counter-marching of opposing armies; in common with the rest of the country it was gradually settled by the Slavs in the VI century. In the X century there was a Slav state under Prince Samo, but it was conquered by the Franks and incorporated in the Empire of Charlemagne; from that time it had many powerful nobles who ruled either for brief periods as virtually independent princes but always under the shadow of the Holy Roman Empire. The Slovenes, however, clung tenaciously to their language and customs, led and encouraged by their priests. Napoleon fixed the administrative centre of his Illyrian state at Ljubljana, and the Slovene lan-

## SLOVENIA

guage was officially recognised on an equality with German and French; the seed was sown of the ideal of Yugoslav unity. It was nourished by the growth of a Slovene literature which culturally recognised its close kinship to Serbo-Croat and politically looked forward to a day of union with the other Yugoslavs of the Balkan peninsula. Austria, however, was both very close and very powerful, and Slovenia was unceasingly exposed to efforts to "Germanise" the country. The national feeling grew all through the XIX century; in 1870 the Slovenes and the Croats united in proclaiming their determination to work for the ultimate union with Serbia and everything possible was done to strengthen the ties between the Yugoslavs within and without the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The hour of liberation came in 1918 when the Slovenes formed part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, as it was then called.

Slovenia was saved by its geographical position from being conquered by the Turks and suffered only from an occasional raid, but the line of castles along the Drava still mark what was then the eastern frontier of Europe against the Ottoman armies.

Many travellers from Great Britain make their

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quaintance with Yugoslavia by arriving at  
the station of

JESENICE, which is on the direct line from  
Vienna and Innsbruck to the Dalmatian coast.  
A small town, now an important industrial  
town with iron foundries, lies at the foot of the  
Slovenian Alps and is one of the centres for climbs and  
expeditions in those mountains. Twenty  
miles south of Jesenice is Lesce-Bled, one of  
the stations for the

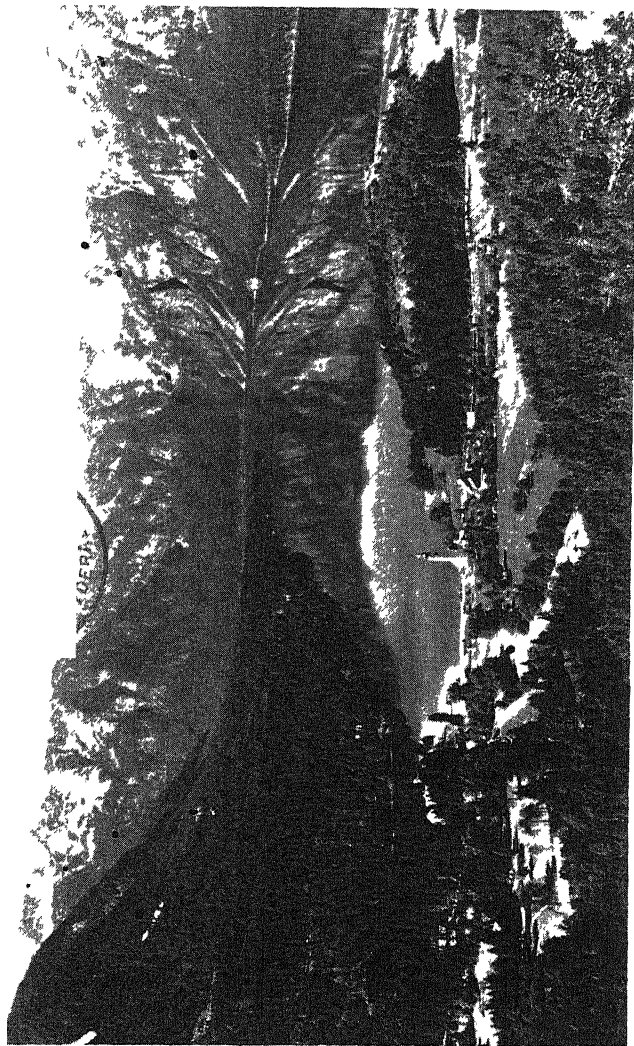
OF BLEED, the most famous lake in  
Slovenia, though Bohinj and the chain of lakes  
in the Alps may dispute its claim to being the most  
beautiful. Hotel motor-buses meet all trains, and  
after a quarter of an hour the traveller finds himself  
on the shore of the lake, which is about a mile and  
a half long and a mile wide. Bled is set amid  
forests and trees and on the shore are many excel-  
lent hotels and pensions. On the north rises a  
steep cliff, the rock-face going sheer down into the  
lake. It is crowned with trees and a medieval  
tower now converted into an hotel, but no sign is  
left to deface the grim walls. In the woods  
on the southern shore is a villa belonging to the  
royal family, where the King with his mother and

## SLOVENIA

brothers always spends part of the summer. In the centre of the lake is a little wooded island with the spire of the Church of Our Lady rising above the trees. Low hills, level pastures and woods surround the water, while in the background tower the great heights of the Julian and Karavanke Alps. Bled is in the fortunate position of enjoying two seasons; in the summer there is bathing, tennis, golf and mountaineering; in the winter the lake freezes and there is skating as well as excellent ski-ing in the neighbourhood. Both in summer and winter there is good music and dancing every evening. Motor-coach excursions make Bled an excellent centre for exploring the surrounding country.

An hour and a half by car from Bled is the

LAKE OF BOHINJ, which may also be reached by train from Jesenice and by car from the station of Bistrica-Bohinjsko-Jezero. Bohinj presents a complete contrast to Bled; here are no *de-luxe* hotels with elaborate bathing-establishments and dance orchestras; on the north and east the mountains come sheer down into the lake, on the southern shore they recede a little and the lower slopes are clothed in woods, but only at the eastern end is there any level ground and here are the villa of the



THE LAKE OF BOHINJ



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Prince Regent, a tiny church and two or three small but good hotels. For those who like quiet it is difficult to imagine a more ideal spot; there is bathing, boating, tennis, excellent trout-fishing, endless walks, while for the mountaineer Bohinj is an excellent starting-point for climbing the Julian Alps. The name of Bohinj is well known in Great Britain, for it was from the villa of the Prince Regent—Prince Paul of Yugoslavia—that the engagement was announced of the Duke of Kent to Princess Marina of Greece, the sister of Princess Paul.

Continuing the journey from Bled to the south, the train passes

KRANJ, a picturesque little town on a spur of the mountains jutting out over the Sava River; on the top of the hill stands the former castle of the Dukes of Carniola. Half an hour later the train reaches

LJUBLJANA (Laibach), the capital of Slovenia. It is strange to think how constant a factor is the geographical position in the development of any town; the Roman road from Aquileia to the city which is now Vienna passed through Emona, where there were an important military centre and



## SLOVENIA

a bustling commercial town. Today Ljubljana occupies the same site and is an important junction between West and East. The best railway line from the northern Adriatic to Vienna passes through it, as does the line to Athens and Istanbul, and it is once again becoming a busy, flourishing town. The new part of the city lies between the railway station and the little river Ljubljanica; there are wide streets and fine modern buildings, including a skyscraper with a restaurant on the top floor from which there is a delightful view. Just beyond the skyscraper are the Government offices, the Opera House and the Museum, all standing in wide squares surrounded by lawns and trees. Beyond them again is the entrance to the Tivoli Park, its name being a reminiscence of the days when the French ruled Illyria from Ljubljana. The beautiful gardens are known as the "English Gardens"—and indeed Hyde Park might envy the bedding-out and the flowers which enjoy a climate which is never too hot and never too cold. Above the gardens the real park begins on the slope of the hill, where stands a large villa once the property of Marshal Radetsky, of evil memory in Italy: the park merges imperceptibly into the woods which cover the hill above.

Returning to the wide Miklošičeva which leads

## SLOVENIA

from the station, a street on the right of the square by the bridge leads to the Kongresni trg., so named in memory of a Congress which the Great Powers held in Ljubljana in the early XIX century to settle the affairs of Europe. The trees which adorn it are planted in the form of the rays of a star and it is locally known as Zvezda—i.e. the star. On it stands a fine baroque Church of the Ursuline Sisterhood and the former home of the Philharmonic Society, now turned into a cinema. The river has been canalised and flows between high stone embankments; between it and the sheer hill of the old castle snuggles the old town with its XVII century houses and baroque churches. A turning to the left leads to the Cathedral of St. Nikola, chiefly remarkable for its very beautiful carved and gilded organ case and some pleasing frescoes of the XVII–XVIII century. Opposite the north wall of the Cathedral is the seminary for priests with a fine baroque portal; farther on is the market-place. Turning to the right along the tram-line a narrow street on the left leads to the path up to the fortress. Immediately below the tower is a path to the left under an arch, beyond which is the entrance to the tower—marked “Vhod na stolp”; inside there is a winding staircase which passes through the living-room of the

## SLOVENIA

custodian—no fee, but a small tip should be given. From the top of the tower there is a magnificent view both of the city and of the surrounding mountains; two stone tables have arrows showing the names and heights of the various peaks. The castle itself was the residence of the governors of Slovenia; it was then used as a prison by the Austrians and is now let out in working-class flats; it is, however, proposed to restore it and use it as a museum. The entrance to the extremely picturesque courtyard is up a ramp on the northern side; the circle of the walls is still complete and there are two wells, on one of which is carved the date—A.D. 1588. The remainder of the top of the hill has now been converted into a park, and there are many ancient fortifications.

Returning to the other bank of the river and turning to the left out of the Kongresni trg., the Gradisce and then the Gorupva lead to the Merje, a wide road with villas on one side and on the other the Roman wall. This has been refaced and grass planted along the top to preserve it; there are two low arches under which have been placed some stone confins. The museum in the Bleiweisova has a fine collection of weapons and jewellery from the prehistoric lake dwellings in Carniola, Roman antiquities found in Ljubljana, relics of the French

## SLOVENIA

occupation and some charming costumes of the Slovene peasants.

In the north-east of Slovenia on the main line from Prague and Vienna is

MARIBOR (Marburg), which stands on high banks above the Drava close to the Pohorje range. The old city with its strange round towers and winding streets along the river lies on the left bank, the modern town with its factories and railway workshops having grown up on the other side. In the market-place at the end of the bridge is the fine XVII-century town hall and a large baroque fountain. The beautiful "Burg", with its staircase with life-sized figures reposing on the balustrade and charming painted ceilings, has now been rescued from its ignominious use as a cinema and is being restored to serve as a museum. The Gothic Cathedral with its twin towers stands in the principal square, on one side of which is the palace of the former Prince Bishops of Lavant. On the Mariborski otok (Maribor Island) a splendid new bathing establishment has been created, with swimming-pools, restaurants, etc. Many delightful excursions both on foot and by motor-car can be made in the surrounding mountains; Kalvarija (Mount Calvary) is twenty minutes' walk from the

## SLOVENIA

park and commands a fine view of the town and the river.

Motor-buses run to the interesting little town of

PTUJ (Pettau), once the Roman Poetovio which commanded a ford across the Drava. In the central square stands the so-called "Orpheus Monument", which is probably the tombstone of a Decurio. There are many other reminders of Roman rule, particularly in the museum, while the castle on the hill above helped to protect Europe from the Turks. The XIV-century church is dedicated to St. George.

CELJE (Cilli), two hours south-west of Maribor on the main line to Ljubljana, was also once a Roman town, founded by the Emperor Claudius and named in his honour "Colonia Claudia Celeja". It stands on the River Savinja and is surrounded by wooded hills; a curious covered wooden stair leads up to a church and beyond to a little restaurant on the top of the hill, with fine views of the river in the gorge below and the twin castles which commanded it. In the Middle Ages it was the residence of the famous and puissant "Counts of Celje" who ruled the surrounding country.

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In the season there are many motor coach excursions to the villages in the hills, also a regular service to

ROGAŠKA SLATINA, which may also be reached by train. Rogaška Slatina is the best known of the many spas of Yugoslavia; lying in a valley with wooded hills round it, the baths and hotels are sheltered from all winds and the beautiful gardens are a proof of the mildness of the climate. There are tennis-courts, an open-air swimming-pool, dancing and a good orchestra for the amusement of visitors.

Also close to Celje on the main line to Ljubljana is the almost equally famous spa of

RIMSKE TOPLICE—the Roman Bath—which has still retained not only the name but even the actual bath of its founders. It too lies among low hills and boasts a warm, open-air swimming-pool and sub-tropical vegetation.

There are many other smaller spas in Slovenia, pleasant reminders that this region was once volcanic. They are now cures for many ailments, and their different properties can be obtained on enquiry from the Yugoslav Express Agency, 25, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1.

## SLOVENIA

In the first chapter reference has been made to the opportunities for mountaineering in many parts of Yugoslavia, but among them Slovenia is pre-eminent—in every sense of the word. It offers every variety of ascent, from the very easy to the very difficult; there are glaciers, snow, ice and rocks to challenge the expert climber and there are pleasant walks among the lower hills for the less expert or ambitious. Any visitors who wish to explore the Alps in Slovenia should read *A Short Guide to the Slovene Alps*, by F. S. Copeland and M. Debelaka, to be obtained from the Yugoslav Express Agency, 25, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1. It contains details of all routes, marked paths, distances, times, and practical hints as to the equipment needed, etc.

The Slovensko Planinsko Drustvo (Slovene Alpine Society), Aleksandrova cesta 1, Palače Viktoria, Ljubljana, maintains hostels and huts for members and non-members; it is a great advantage to pay the very small entrance fee and annual subscription so as to obtain reduced terms in the hostels and huts. The society publishes excellent maps showing the paths, tracks, altitudes, hostels and huts, and the average time required for each climb. It has branches all over Slovenia and can provide fully qualified guides who are



PEASANTS IN THE KRANJSKA GORA, SLOVENIA





## SLOVENIA

necessary for certain ascents. The secretary will be glad to answer enquiries from prospective visitors.

The mountain system of Slovenia consists of three principal ranges—the Eastern Julian Alps, the Karavanke, the Kamnik or Savinja Alps; there are in addition several lower ranges of hills—the Pohorje Range near Maribor, the Zasavje Mountains near Celje, the Polhograjski Dolomiti near Ljubljana, and the Bohinj ranges of the Julian Alps.

The following particulars of the most important climbs in the different ranges will give a general idea of the many possibilities of the region but make no attempt to describe the interest and beauty of the mountains.

**JULIAN ALPS.** These are a continuation of the main Alpine system, are part of the watershed between the Adriatic and the Black Sea and form the frontier between Yugoslavia and Italy. They include Mount Triglav (8,713 feet), the highest mountain in Yugoslavia. Chamois are plentiful and the flora is very rich.

Points of departure—

Rateče. Station Rateče on the Jesenice-Tarvisio line.

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1. Tamar-Planica valley. 1½ hours.
2. Mount Srednja Ponca. 8 hours.
3. Mount Jalovec. 8 hours.
4. Rupe and Vršič. 3½ hours.

Kranjska Gora on the Jesenice-Tarvisio line.

1. Vršič-Rupe. 2½ hours.\*
2. Mojstrovka. 4½-5 hours.
3. Prisojnik. 5-6 hours.
4. Krnica-Križka Stena. 4½ hours.
5. Mount Špik. 6 hours.
6. Velika Dnina. 4 hours.

Gozd. Station Gozd-Martulek on the Jesenice-Tarvisio line.

1. Martuljek Meadow and Upper Fall. 1½ hours.
2. Ascent of Za Akom, 2 hours, and Vrh  
za Stenami. 2-3 hours.
3. Špik through the Špik couloir. 8 hours.

Mojstrana. Station Dovje-Mojstrana on the Jesenice-Travisio line. Best point of departure for Triglav.

1. Vrata Valley and Aljažev Dom. 2½ hours.
2. Križka Stena and Kriz. 6½ hours.
3. Škriatica. 9 hours.
4. Triglav via Vrata Valley. 9 hours.
5. Stenar. 6½ hours.

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- |                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 6. Triglav via Kot Valley.  | 7 hours.    |
| 7. Triglav via Krma Valley. | 8-10 hours. |

Bled. Station Bled-Lesce on the Jesenice-Ljubljana line.

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Vintgar.                             |           |
| 2. Babji Zob and limestone cave.        |           |
| 3. Pokljuka.                            | 3½ hours. |
| 4. Triglav via Pokljuka and Velo Polje. |           |
| 5. Mount Stol.                          |           |
| 6. Mount Begunščica.                    |           |

Bohinj and Bohinjska Bistrica. Station Bohinjska Bistrica on the Jesenice-Piedicolle line.

- |                  |           |           |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Koprivnik.    |           | 2 hours.  |
| 2. Črna Prst.    |           | 3 hours.  |
| 3. Srednja Vas.  | 1 hour.   | Triglav.  |
|                  |           | 7 hours.  |
| 4. Sv. Janez.    |           | 1½ hours. |
| 5. Stara Fužina. | 1½ hours. | Triglav.  |
|                  |           | 7 hours.  |
| 6. Zlatorog.     |           | 2 hours.  |

THE KARAVANKE lie in the extreme north-west corner of Slovenia and form the frontier with Italy and Germany; the lower slopes are covered with forests up to about 5,600 feet; above that height there is grass, only the highest peaks being bare rock. There are beautiful views of the lakes in Carinthia.

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Points of departure—

Rateče. Station, Rateče on the Jesenice-Travisio line.

1. Sovška Planiña, Peč and Petelinjek. 4 hours.

Dovje. Station Dovje-Mojstrana on the Jesenice-Tarvisio line.

1. Mount Kepa. 5 hours.

Jesenice. Frontier station on the line from Innsbruck.

1. Mount Golica. 4 hours.
2. Ridge Route Golica-Kepa. 4 hours.
3. Ridge route Golica-Stol. 6 hours.

Žirovnica. Station on the Jesenice-Ljubljana line.

1. Stol. 5 hours.
2. Stol via Valvazjeva koča. 5 hours.

Kranj. Station on the line Jesenice-Ljubljana line.

1. Storžič.

THE KAMNIK OR SAVINJA ALPS are the most easterly range; they consist of a semicircle of mountains and though lower than either the Julian Alps or the Karavanke there are many interesting and picturesque climbs.

## SLOVENIA

Points of departure—

Kamnik. Local line from Ljubljana and a motor-bus service.

1. Kamniška Bistrica. 3½ hours.
2. Krvavec. 5 hours.
3. Velika Planina. 4-5 hours.
4. Korošica and Kocbekov Dom ne Korosici. 6 hours.
5. Černilec Pass.

Kranj. Main-line station Jesenice-Ljubljana, by motor-bus to Kokra.

1. Krvavec. 3 hours.
2. Roblekov Kot. 3 hours.
3. Coizova Koča. 3 hours.

Jezersko. Motor-bus from Kranj.

1. Češka koča. 2 hours.
2. Savinjsko Sedlo. 3 hours.

Celje. Station on the main line Maribor-Ljubljana, by motor-bus up the Logar Valley for Gornjigrad; Luce; Solvaca; Logar Valley; from all these points there are many climbs and walks of various descriptions, some only for expert rock climbers, others for the average good walker. There are many small hotels and huts in the district, so walking tours can easily be planned.

If Slovenia is a "happy hunting ground" for

## SLOVENIA

mountaineers, rock climbers and walkers in the summer, it is paradise for ski-ers in the winter. Practically every one of the places enumerated above becomes a winter-sport centre from January till April—indeed, in the higher mountains it is frequently possible to find good snow even at a later date. Hotels are simple—except for those at Bled and Kranjska Gora—but comfortable and inexpensive. There are instructors available, slopes for novices and long tours for experts. The most famous winter resort is

**RATEČE-PLANICA.** There are four ski jumps, including the highest in the world—450 feet high and 1,000 long. The world's record jump of 356 feet was made in 1937. All particulars of the various winter sports meetings can be obtained each year from the Yugoslav Express Agency, 25, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1.

## CROATIA

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*Zagreb — Sljeme — Šestine — Plitvice Lakes —  
Gorski Kotar—Slawonia*

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## *Croatia*

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A brief account has already been given of the Croatian kingdom which flourished during the X and XI centuries and of its union with Hungary; Croatia was fortunate in that the tide of Turkish conquest ebbed from its frontiers, but there was incessant fighting with Bosnia and Hercegovina. After the defeat of the Turks before Vienna in A.D. 1683 and the gradual liberation of Hungary, the former United Kingdom became an autonomous province of the Austrian Empire. As has been said, when the Hungarians rebelled in A.D. 1848 against the Austrian yoke, they refused to recognise the equal rights of the Croats, who, as a result, supported Austria. Their only reward was a further loss of independence and when the province was handed over to Hungarian administration after the inauguration of the Dual System there began an intensive effort at Magyarisation. The immediate reaction was a rapid growth of the sentiment of Yugoslav unity which was led by the famous Bishop Štrosmayer who founded the Yugo-

## CROATIA

slav Academy at Zagreb, and by the poet Mažuranić, who roused the national feeling by his great poem in honour of the deeds of the Montenegrin heroes who had died for the cause. A political party was formed in Diet which was known as the Serbo-Croat Coalition to oppose at every step the efforts of the Hungarian Government to impose their language and laws on the country. When the World War broke out many Croats escaped and fought as volunteers in the Serbian Army. On October 29th, 1918, the National Council proclaimed the separation of the Croat people from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and later announced their determination to form part of the new Kingdom, now known as Yugoslavia.

ZAGREB, the capital of Croatia, is one of the meeting-places of Central, Southern and Eastern Europe, and its citizens have made the most of this "eligible situation". The city is at once historic, modern, cultured and industrial; it has beautiful gardens and parks, it has wide boulevards and narrow streets, it has up-to-date flats and villas and charming little baroque palaces, it is in short wisely determined to make the best of the old and the new.

The original Roman town stood twelve miles

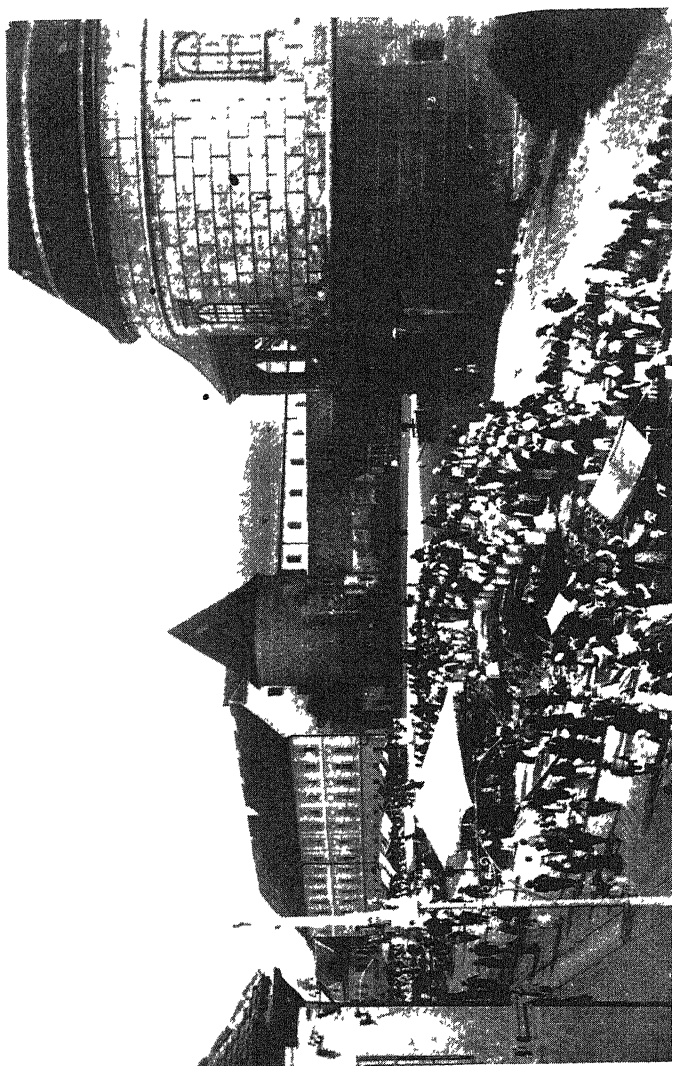
## CROATIA

away on the banks of the Sava and was called Andautonia, after the tribe which inhabited the district; between A.D. 84 and A.D. 250 it was prosperous and important and its richer citizens had their country villas where Zagreb now stands. After the arrival of the Croats these Romanised inhabitants were called "Vlasi" or "Laska" and their name still survives today in the "Lastina" and in the Vlaska Ulica. Zagreb became an important town of the Croatian and then the Croatian-Hungarian Kingdom and in A.D. 1093 became the seat of a bishopric; it threw itself whole-heartedly into the struggle for the succession to the vacant throne of Croatia and the coming of the bishop provoked fresh dissensions. The "Dukes", who nominally represented the king but were virtually independent princes, occupied the low hill which was then known as Gradec, while the cathedral with the bishop's palace and the ecclesiastical buildings stood on the slightly lower hill, which at that period alone bore the name of "Zagreb". Both these little towns were destroyed by the Taftars in A.D. 1241 and in A.D. 1242 the then King Bela III issued his famous "Golden Bull", by which Gradec was to become a walled town, and a Royal Free City, subject only to the king himself and exempt from all taxes—no

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wonder that the citizens became rich, powerful and fiercely tenacious of their rights. The walls were finished in A.D. 1266, but it was not until after the first advance of the Túrks in A.D. 1469 that the bishop and his canons began the walls which were to protect the lower town. "Zagreb" was saved on that occasion by the flooding of the Sava and never again did the Turks approach so near. In A.D. 1502 there was a serious earthquake and later in the century both towns became once more involved in civil war, inevitably taking different sides; at last, however, they were more or less united and became generally known as "Zagreb", and at the end of the century became the capital of the Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia. The next hundred years were marked by incessant struggles to maintain their rights against the encroachments of Hungary. In the XVIII century, with the disappearance of the Turkish danger, the rich nobles were allowed to build their houses on the city walls, while the suppression of the religious orders and the sale of their property brought the first great change in the appearance of the old town, and in the XIX century all except one of the gates were pulled down.

Meanwhile a great work was being done for Yugoslav unity by the famous Bishop Štrosmayer,





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who founded the Yugoslav Academy and the Yugoslav University at Zagreb. The Croat-Hungarian Treaty of 1868 recognised the city as the capital of Croatia and a great era of building and cultural activity followed.

The main railway station of Zagreb is on the edge of the quarter of the city which is devoted to the University buildings, the museums and the botanical garden. In the Mažuranića trg. stands the Ethnographical Museum, among the finest of its kind in Europe, with a wonderful collection of costumes from the whole of Yugoslavia; there are also models of houses, collections of household utensils, embroideries and jewels, and of Church vestments and furnishings, etc. In the square behind the Opera House is a beautiful fountain by Meštrović, now a resident of Zagreb. The splendid modern high school close by is matched by others in the city and will certainly cause British visitors some pangs of jealousy, as it would be difficult to find buildings to compare with them in Great Britain. The Archæological Museum, the Town Museum and the Štrossmayer Gallery, with its collection of Italian, Dutch, German and Croatian pictures, and the Yugoslav Academy are all situated in the gardens which lead from the railway station to the Jelačić trg. In front



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of the Academy is a statue of Štrosmayer by Meštrović.

The Jelačić trg. is the centre of the traffic of the city; in the middle is a statue of the great Ban. In the left-hand corner is the new market hall with a flat roof, which makes as it were an upper square, and here every morning are to be seen the peasants from the surrounding country, the women in beautiful white dresses embroidered in red, with coloured handkerchiefs on their heads and often multi-coloured aprons. In the lower left-hand corner is the beginning of the Ilica, the main shopping street of the town; the Meštrović Gallery with a collection of about fifty sculptures and thirty drawings is at No. 12. A little farther on, on the right-hand side, is the cable railway which runs every two minutes to the upper town.

This takes the visitor to the Štrosmayer Promenade, the site of the old southern wall of the Gradec, with the Habernik Tower still standing at the corner of the Dvertze; the bell to warn citizens that the gates are closing is still rung at 9 p.m. in the winter and 10 p.m. in the summer. At the opposite corner formerly stood the Palace of the Kings or the "Dukes". There is a wonderful view from the promenade of the modern town, of the River Sava and the great plain beyond.

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The small palaces of the Dvertze have now been turned into judicial and municipal offices. On the right is the Caterin trg. with the Jesuit Church at the end, while the Dvertze ends in the Radica trg. In the centre is the Church of St. Mark; on its roof of brilliant-coloured tiles are the coats of arms of the Kingdom of Croatia and of the town of Zagreb. There is considerable doubt of the date of the original building, but it is known to have been in existence in A.D. 1242; there is a fine Gothic southern porch with figures of saints; the pillars separating the nave from the aisles are undoubtedly Romanesque, with Gothic vaulting superimposed. There is a Madonna with the infant Christ in the Lady Chapel and a Crucifixion over the High Altar, both by Meštrović, while the fine modern frescoes are by Kljavorić, a well-known Zagreb painter. On the east side of the square is the building where the Croatian Diet met prior to 1918 and opposite are the offices of the Ban. From the west of the square a short street leads to the Rauch Palace, built in the baroque style; indeed, all the narrow streets on the hill-top have charming late XVIII and early XIX century houses in them. From the south-east corner of the square one reaches the only one of the original gates—Kamenita Vrata, “the Stone Gate”—be-

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neath it there is a tiny chapel with an ikon of the Madonna where many peasant women come to pray.

A wide street from the north-east corner of the Jelačić trg. is the quickest way to the "Kaptol"—the old ecclesiastical town with the archbishop's palace and the cathedral; the latter was begun in A.D. 1093 and was finished in A.D. 1824, so many were the fires, the earthquakes and alterations from which it suffered. It is built in the Gothic style and the present edifice dates from the early XVII century; the magnificent baroque altars which it contained were all destroyed in the XIX century to make way for sham Gothic substitutes; only the beautiful baroque pulpit escaped destruction. On three sides stand the walls and towers which were built to protect the town from the Turks. On the south side is the palace of the archbishop, which was erected between A.D. 1723 and 1748.

Towards the eastern end of the Ilica, the Mesnička Ulica (a turning on the right) leads to the beautiful Tuškanac Park; on a high bluff between the Mesnička Ulica and the Štrosmayer Promenade stands the Royal Palace, once a tower which formed part of the defences of the town. It was modernised and presented to the late King Alex-

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ander by the citizens of Zagreb. At the other end of the city is the very large Maksimir Park which formerly belonged to the bishops; it has two lakes, a zoo and a golf-course.

To the north of the city is a low range of wooded hills; a modern road winds up the highest to

SLJEME to a point near the summit, where there is a small hotel (three-quarters of an hour by motor-car). From there a path leads to the "Pyramid", a miniature Eiffel Tower, built high above the surrounding trees. From the top there is a wonderful view of the valley of the Sava, of the plain to the north-west and of the Slovene Alps.

Visitors who are in Zagreb on Sunday morning should go to

ŠESTINE, a village three miles away; there are to be seen beautiful native costumes, and after Mass the peasants perform the "kola", a spirited round dance.

In the neighbourhood of Zagreb it is specially worth while to mention the district of *Hrvatsko Zagorje*, which lay beyond the northern mountain region surrounding Zagreb. It is a typically Croatian region famous for its fairs, its many watering-places, Marija Bistrica among them is of

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special interest as a very popular centre of Catholic pilgrimage.

### PLITVICE LAKES

The train from Zagreb to Split crosses the rich plain of Croatia, but after leaving Karlovac, with its picturesque castle on a high bluff, the line begins its long climb over the Dinaric Alps which separate Dalmatia from the interior. In four hours from Zagreb it reaches the station of Vrhovine-Plitvice where a motor-bus meets the trains. By car the journey takes about three hours from Zagreb, and during the summer months there are excursions by motor-coach every Sunday.

The road from Vrhovine runs across a wide plain and then winds through small valleys above the most southerly of the twenty-eight lakes; these vary in size from a hundred yards in length to Kozjak, which is about three miles long. They are really a series of irregular terraces set deep among wooded hills and connected by waterfalls, some of which are little more than rapids overgrown with shrubs and water plants, others are twenty to fifty feet in height. Where the lakes end in a curious semicircular gorge of limestone cliffs, another stream plunges down to join the river in a waterfall over 250 feet high.



PLITVICE LAKES



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Plitvice itself, which stands on the eastern shore of Kozjak, consists of some really good hotels, two or three *pensions* and a handful of villas. Opposite, the hills, covered with beeches and firs, rise in wave on wave with gleams of emerald lakes and of white waterfalls. Rowing-boats are moored below the hotel to carry the visitor to the opposite shore to wander up through the woods, or else to the northern end of Kozjak itself, where a path, with little wooden bridges across the falls, leads in about a mile beside the lakes to the last of them, where the little river hurries off on its way to the Sava, the Danube and the Black Sea. There is a path through the woods with wonderful vistas of the lakes below, some turquoise blue, others the most vivid green, according to the light. Just above the last of the small lakes there is a turn to the left which leads down by a series of staircases through a great natural cavern in the cliff, to join the path on the level of the lakes. The lakes are perhaps most beautiful at sunset, when the blue of the hills and the red of the sky turn them to all the colours of the opal. Everywhere there is the sound of running water "which to the sleeping woods all night singeth a quiet tune".

Plitvice stands 1,760 feet above sea-level, the surrounding mountains running up to 4,200 feet,



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so the nights are always cool. The beauty of the lakes will doubtless be enhanced for fishermen by the knowledge that excellent trout-fishing is to be had.

**GORSKI KOTAR.** Visitors who are especially attracted to mountain scenery could do worse than visit the region known as Gorski Kotar, on the line running between Zagreb and the coast at Sušak. The centre for visitors, and in particular the fishing, is Ogulin. The region itself is an enormous expanse of centuries' old pine forests, most of them free for magnificent walks, and dotted with beautiful mountain villages. The district is gaining rapidly in favour among visitors who prefer a dry climate to that of the coast.

**SLAWONIA.** Visitors who want to shoot should not miss an opportunity of visiting the famous forests of Slawonia, a district which is included in Croatia. The region is flat, planted mainly with enormous oak forests, and is known internationally for its valuable mineral-water springs.

The centre of Slawonia is a town called Osijek (the Roman Mursa), on the River Drava. It was the seat of a bishopric as early as the II century,

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and its walls overlook the scene where Constantine the Great killed his rival Magnetius. Today the town has some importance as a cultural centre, and a considerable commercial reputation on account of the timber business carried on in the surrounding oak forests.

The smaller town of Djakovo, with its fine Gothic cathedral, is worth mentioning as the former seat of the famous bishop, Štrossmayer, one of the greatest spiritual and intellectual figures which Croatia has produced.



## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

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*Banja Luka—Žajce—Travnik—Sarajevo—Banja  
Ilidža—Mostar*

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## *Bosnia and Hercegovina*

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These two former provinces, which lie side by side and are linked together all throughout history, present the most striking contrast to the eye. Bosnia is a land of woods and pastures and green hillsides, kindly and smiling. Hercegovina is a wild *karst* region with limestone mountains, scoured by the rains of winter and burnt by the fierce sun of the Mediterranean summer. Rivers spring full born out of the cliffs to disappear again as suddenly. It is a land of grapes, tobacco and olive trees; the soil in the flat valleys burns a dusky red against the grey of the bare hillsides. Except at Mostar, Christians and Moslems dwell apart in separate villages, both alike earning a hard living from an unkindly earth.

Near Sarajevo at Butmir is one of the largest prehistoric settlements in Europe, not yet fully excavated. The first known inhabitants were Thracians who were succeeded by the Illyrians; the Roman conquest began in A.D. 29, but was not completed till the III century; when the Slavs

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

entered the country in the VI century they settled in the valleys and gradually after much internecine quarrelling a Bosnian state emerged which included much of Hercegovina. In A.D. 1353 there arose Trvtko, a strong man who first as Ban and then as King, A.D. 1377 to A.D. 1391, created a united Slav state. It was already too late for Bosnia long to continue as a separate and independent unit, for the Turkish conquest of the Balkans had begun; in A.D. 1371 they invaded Bosnia; they were repulsed again and again, but it was impossible for the small kingdom to resist what was in those days the most formidable army in Europe, and by the middle of the XV century the conquest was complete. No help came from the Christian powers for religious reasons.

The strange Bogomil heresy, a form of dualism in which the powers of good and evil were equally powerful and for ever at war, had swept across Bosnia. It was abhorrent to the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, who persecuted its followers whenever possible. It was, however, passionately believed by most of the Bosnian nobles, many of whom found no difficulty in accepting the tenets of Mohammedanism after the Turkish conquest. As a result they were allowed to keep their lands, while many of the peasants remained Christian.

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

Whereas in other parts of what is now Yugoslavia the Moslems were merely "an army of occupation", in Bosnia they were Slavs by race, more conservative and fanatical than anywhere else in the Turkish Empire and cut off by their religion from the unfortunate peasants who were merely serfs. It was not till the XIX century with the awaking of the Yugoslav desire to work together for the unity of the Yugoslav race, that old religious differences were forgotten.

The Turks regarded the possession of Bosnia as of the greatest strategic importance; during the negotiations for the Peace Treaty of Karlovic in A.D. 1699 Austria offered three rich Wallachian districts in exchange for three small towns in Bosnia, but the Turks refused as they declared that it would mean opening the road to Constantinople. Their rule lasted till A.D. 1878 when, at the Congress of Berlin, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was empowered to administer the two provinces and formally annexed them in A.D. 1908.

BANJA LUKA, six hours by train from Zagreb, the former capital of Bosnia, was once an important Roman town on the road from Salona to Pannonia and there are still traces of Roman baths two miles south of the town. The massive walls of the



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Turkish fortress stand on the banks of the River Vrbas and not far off is the fine Mosque of Ferhad Pasha built in the end of the XVI century for 50,000 ducats, the ransom which that Pasha received for the young Count Auersperg. A wide street with a double avenue of chestnuts leads to the fine modern buildings containing government offices. There is an interesting small museum containing a collection of the historic and present-day costumes of Bosnia. Banja Luka has been captured and destroyed too often for it to contain many buildings of historic interest; it is today a prosperous "market town" and on Tuesdays peasants from all the surrounding country bring their produce to sell in the large market close to the castle. Here may be seen the costumes of the neighbouring villages and the shepherds from the hills, who, even on the hottest days, wear their sheepskin coats, the wool inside or out as the fancy takes them.

From Banja Luka the way to the south—to Jayce and Sarajevo—is by road; there is a daily motor-coach service in each direction, allowing three hours at Jayce for luncheon and a visit to the famous waterfall.

And here perhaps a special word may be said to the private motorist; there are no dangerous gradi-

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ents, but the road is narrow, winding—and crowded, not with cars, but with all the traffic of a busy countryside. Therefore caution, and consideration for the shy young ponies, is the first “rule of the road” from Banja Luka to Sarajevo. Those whose only idea of pleasure is to drive as fast as they can should keep to featureless bypass roads; anyhow, they are quite unworthy of the scenery and the interest which are to be found on this drive. The discerning will notice that the beautiful peasant costumes vary slightly both in colouring and pattern from valley to valley; they will go slowly through the little villages, with their white houses with high-pitched roofs of dark brown tiles made of wood; they will see the humble mosques with their slender wooden minarets and will note that the Faithful still have lattice-work shutters to the windows of their houses. In the rushing Vrbas there are wooden mills standing on tall stilts, grinding the corn which arrives on the backs of ponies, for this is the countryside of small-holdings, its wealth lying in its great forests. Whole families may be seen working together in the fields; women stand at their cottage doors spinning and stalwart young men stroll along knitting their socks as they go, on six needles.

Eight miles south of Banja Luka the road

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enters the gorge of the Vrbas and for the remaining thirty-eight miles to Jajce the precipices come sheer down to the water's edge; just before this latter place there is no room even for the road and tunnels have had to be made through the rock.

JAJCE, once the capital of the Bosnian kings, stands on a hill at the junction of the Vrbas and the Pliva; the crumbling walls run up the slopes to the ruined castle on the top which was besieged many times and finally captured by the Turks in A.D. 1528. The two town gateways are still intact and between them runs the main street of two-storied Bosnian houses. Outside the southern gate there is a bridge across the Pliva, beyond which on the left a path leads down the high river bank to the Vrbas; a turn suddenly reveals the Pliva hurling itself over a waterfall 100 feet high. It enters the Vrbas at more than a right angle and the spray thrown up almost reaches the top of the high wooded bank on the opposite side. A little farther on a foot-bridge crosses the Vrbas and from the other bank there is the best view not only of the waterfall but of the town, clinging to its steep hillsides as if still seeking for protection from the fortress above it. Among the minarets is to be

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seen what appears to be the slightly alien, but beautiful, Romanesque belfry of a church which was burnt down over a century ago. About ten minutes' walk from the castle is the Franciscan church in which the body of King Tomašavić, the last of the Bosnian kings, is preserved in a glass coffin.

South of Jajce the valley widens and the road climbs over the watershed which separates the valleys of the Vrbas and the Bosna, pretty wooded hills with pasture alternating with cultivated patches.

TRAVNIK, forty miles from Jajce, is another eloquent reminder of Bosnia's stormy past; here again a fortress frowns down on the town. It was built by King Tvrtko II, and like that of Jajce commanded an important pass. The proud and turbulent nobles of Sarajevo refused to allow the Turkish governor of Bosnia to live in that town, so from A.D. 1555 to A.D. 1588 he resided at Travnik, from A.D. 1588 to A.D. 1638 at Banja Luka and again from that year to A.D. 1851 at Travnik. In the main street there is an interesting old building on arches, now used as the fruit market.

The hills recede and the valleys widen out, and thirty miles farther on lies the large village of

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KISELJAK, with a picturesque main street, and so in about an hour to the far-famed

SARAJEVO. Lying at the end of the wide valley, the low hills behind it covered with trees and little white houses with their high brown roofs suggest the backcloth of a scene in a theatre, while above them towers Mount Trebevic, 4,500 feet. Here, in the well-worn phrase, east and west meet; the town has 80,000 inhabitants of whom some 25,000 are Moslems; they have not abandoned the practice of their religion or forgotten the law of the Koran; they still wear the fez or the veil. Europe might indeed go to school at Sarajevo, for Moslems, Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants and Jews (who still talk the Castilian they learnt before they were driven out of Spain in the Middle Ages) all live together in peace and indeed in friendship. The Holy Days of all faiths are kept as holidays, and friends send the appropriate good wishes and presents. All children go to the same schools, but each religion has its own charitable organisations to look after the poor and sick.

The Slavs entered the valley in the VII century but the history of Sarajevo begins in the XIV century, when the fortress was built on the hill-top

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commanding the narrow gorge through which the river Miljačka flows into the plain.

The town sprang into importance during that brief flowering of Bosnian greatness under King Tvrtko I in the XIV century; in A.D. 1429 it was captured by the Turks and by the middle of the next century it had become famous for the beauty of its mosques, its palaces, its gardens, its public baths. In A.D. 1659 it had "140 quarters, 17,000 houses, 170 mosques, 1,050 shops, 110 fountains, 670 private and 5 great public hammans and more than 25,000 gardens". But in A.D. 1697 Prince Eugene of Savoy swept down on it; he defeated the Turkish armies, took and sacked Sarajevo, burning down 6,000 houses and 160 mosques. Civil war followed to assist the destruction of the town and the Sultan was hard put to it to end the quarrels of the Bosnian nobles and restore peace. As has been said, his Vezir was never allowed to live in the town, only to visit it once a year for twenty-four hours; there were no greater "die-hards" in the Turkish Empire than the Bosnian nobles, and though many of them were killed in a revolt caused by a reforming Sultan at the beginning of the XIX century, it was not till A.D. 1851, after most of their last representatives had been treacherously massacred, that Sarajevo lost its

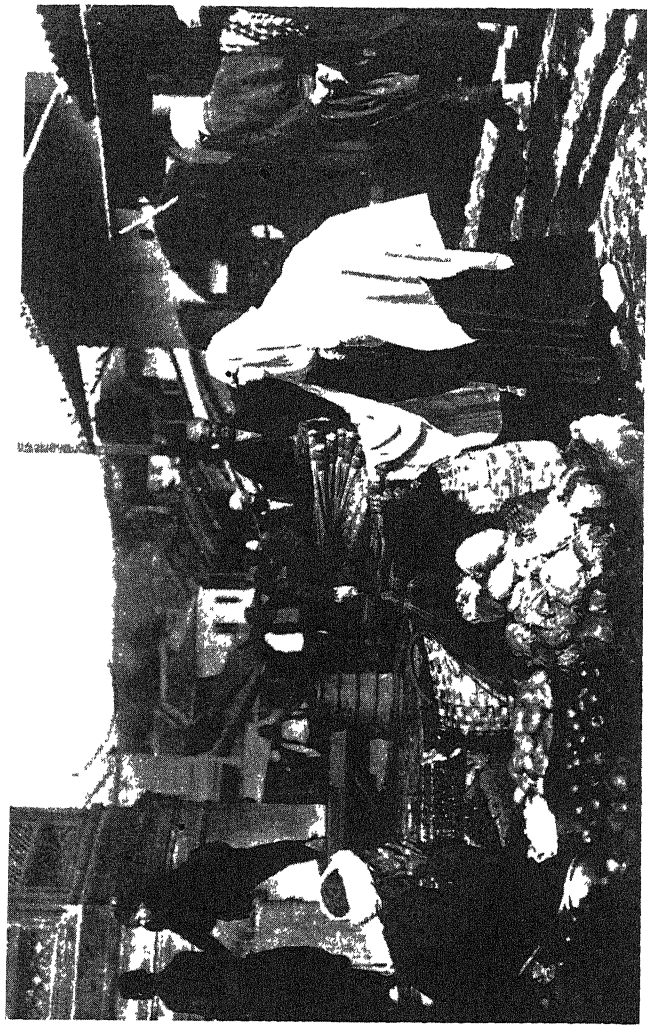
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municipal independence and the Turkish governor was able to live in the city.

But a new problem now arose for the Turks; the spirit of Yugoslav nationalism was awaking and rebellions of a new character began, chaos reigned in Bosnia and, as has been said, at the Congress of Berlin in A.D. 1878 Austria-Hungary was entrusted with the task of restoring order, but when her army entered Sarajevo they were received with shots and stones. The annexation of Bosnia and Hercegovina in 1908 aroused fresh fury, and on June 29th, 1914, millions of people in Europe were asking themselves—"Where is Sarajevo?" The heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire and hismorganatic wife had been shot there on the preceding day.

SARAJEVO, like a wise town, keeps its main station at some distance, and motor-buses from the hotels meet all trains. A fine wide road leads into the centre of the city, passing the Museum on the right and the public park on the left. Here and there are still to be seen houses of the Bosnian type, with projecting first stories and deep eaves, mingling in the Christian quarter with modern shops and hotels.

There are two parts of the city: the old, for



THE TURKISH MARKET AT SARAJEVO





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which the station is Bistric, on the hill above Sarajevo from which the traveller comes immediately to the old oriental part of the town. Bistric still keeps its old character, its old order and its old life. The Turkish houses are worth seeing, and visitors are admitted to some of the famous houses of old Bosnian families, some of which still have their own wooden minarets.

Immediately below the hills which close the end of the valley are the narrow tortuous streets of the Bas-Čarsija—the market—with its tiny booths, practically every trade having a street to itself. Here men, sitting cross-legged on the ground, hammer at brass and copper; shoemakers stitch at the stout sandals which are to resist the rough mountain paths; jewellers make the delicate filigree ornaments, and everywhere are delicious whiffs of coffee being roasted and ground. Moslem women in their all-enveloping grey cloaks and black veils, peasants from the countryside in short brown woollen coats and white shirts—the men in full knickerbockers and the women in even fuller skirts—lead sturdy little ponies carrying bundles of wood, shouting a very necessary warning as they come; shoppers stand in unhurried groups before the booths bargaining with a solemnity which is an inheritance from the

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

days when Turkey ruled Bosnia. In the middle of the clatter and the chatter there is an oasis of peace—the Mosque of the Beg—Husrev the Victorious—who built it in A.D. 1530; in the forecourt shaded by limes is the great fountain for the ceremonial ablutions; the splendid loggia is supported by five stone pillars and has three domes. A door on the left-hand wall is opened to admit visitors; the interior is filled with light, and there are some beautiful and ancient carpets on the floor. Also within the courtyard are two small buildings, one of which contains the coffin of Husrev, and a coffer with a hair of the Prophet, also a fine copy of the Koran. Close by is the old tower with a clock which still tells the time in Turkish. Beyond and above the market are the narrow streets with their walled houses and gardens, with here and there a minaret appearing over the tree-tops, while the forts above speak of the days when Sarajevo's rulers lived by the sword.

The River Miljačka has a wide boulevard on either side; starting from the market, the large pseudo-Moorish building was erected by the Austrians and is now used as municipal offices; the second bridge is now called the Princip Bridge and a stone plaque let into the house at the corner

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commemorates the fact that Princip shot the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife at that spot. Across the bridge is the Central Mosque, built in the middle of the XV century and restored in A.D. 1630, which has a charming forecourt with colonnades and a loggia. The other buildings which line the river banks are modern.

At the end of the Aleksandrova Ulica nearer the market stands an old Orthodox Church; in the days of the Turks this was surrounded by a wall sufficiently high to hide it from the "Faithful"; the wall has now been cut down on the street side but on the other three sides it still surrounds the little courtyard. The church itself is quite devoid of external decoration but the walls inside are almost entirely covered with ikons, some of great antiquity; the gallery is supported by Romanesque arches, another series carrying the roof. Before the sanctuary stand two small, curiously carved marble pillars probably brought from some still older building; they support two giant candles which are only lighted during service on Sunday mornings and last for a hundred years.

A tram from the Catholic Cathedral passes the charming little Mosque of Ali Pasha and also the Museum; the collections are housed in three

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

buildings built round a botanical garden. In the courtyard there are many monuments of the once famous Bogomil sect, which for two centuries was master in Bosnia and counted its followers all over South and Eastern Europe. The main building contains prehistoric jewellery and weapons, Roman sarcophagi, mile-stones, etc., and a large collection of coins which have been found in the neighbourhood. The building on the left is perhaps the most interesting for the foreign visitor, for it has weapons, jewels and embroideries dating from the early days of the Turkish occupation, while on the upper floor are rooms filled with old Bosnian and Hercegovinian furniture and life-sized figures dressed in costumes of the various periods. The next building is devoted to natural history, while on the fourth side of the garden are the offices of the director.

One of the chief industries of Sarajevo is carpet-making, which has been carried on for hundreds of years and is practically hereditary in certain families. The factory stands in the Ranković trg. across the Princip Bridge; over 400 women are employed and one special room is set apart in which visitors are shown the various types of carpets actually being made. The greatest care is taken to maintain the tradition and only the

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

finest old designs are copied, all the dyes being vegetable and produced locally. The same is true of the Embroidery School, which is in the street which leads uphill out of the left hand corner of the Ranković trg. A government expert is incessantly employed in searching the countryside for examples of old designs, of which hundreds have been collected; they are copied and adapted to modern use—dresses, blouses, tablecloths, table-mats, curtains, cushion covers, etc. The school weaves its own linen and muslin and the work is carried out chiefly by Moslem girls working under expert supervision. No one who is interested in the local costumes, in embroidery or designs, should fail to visit the school.

In the late afternoon it is very pleasant to walk or drive up the wooded hill under the castle which overlooks the whole of the town, with its winding river, its many minarets and the wide valley beyond with its distant circle of hills. There are many little cafés scattered about, each one with a delightful view.

A pretty motor drive is to Pale, about an hour to the east of Sarajevo. It lies in the middle of a wide valley and the mountains around are famous in Bosnian history as having provided the hiding-

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

places of the patriots who carried on a guerilla warfare against the Turks. Those who are fond of mountaineering will find many peaks to climb in the surrounding countryside; they should get into touch with one of the local climbing clubs for particulars.

BANJA ILIDŽA, with its sulphur baths which have been famous since the days of the Romans, is seven miles west of Sarajevo and can be reached by a local train. The hotels and the actual bathing establishment are charmingly situated in a wood interspersed with pretty gardens; there is a large central café where an orchestra plays in the afternoons and evenings.

Leaving Sarajevo for the Dalmatian coast, the railway line runs across the valley and then begins the ascent of the Ivan Planina—the mountain range which divides the wooded hills and rich plains of Bosnia from the *karst* with its barren limestone rocks of

HERCEGOVINA. Coming out of the tunnel at the top of the watershed it is as if one had been sitting in a theatre where the scenery had been changed in the dark. In short loops and tunnels the railway climbs down into the deep

## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

valley of the Neretva river. Just beyond the station of Konjic a fine old Turkish bridge may be seen from the left hand window of the carriage. Both the railway and the road have been built along the banks of the river; the scenery has not altered since Peter Munday, a "Turkey merchant", rode over this traditional trade route in the XVII century and wrote in his reminiscences:

When we came to the descent, thincking to discover some plaine country, wee sawe an other mountain right before us, adjoynings to this, altogetther not soe high, but much more steepy, beinge one entyre masse of a Rocke, most strange and fearful to behold.

The action of man and the weather has denuded the hills of Hercegovina of all soil and they stand up grey masses of limestone; the cutting down of the trees and the consequent erosion has washed all the earth into the long oval valleys which lie between Jablanica and Dubrovnik. In one of the richest of these plains stands

MOSTAR on high banks over the Neretva. In the beginning of the XV century it had become an important commercial town and the seat of a Turkish governor. Mosques were built, some of which still stand with their minarets rising tall and elegant above the houses; the Karadjoz



## BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

mosque is one of the most famous in Bosnia. In the XVIII century Orthodox peasants were attracted to the rich and prosperous town and in A.D. 1777 it became the seat of an Orthodox bishop. The beautiful bridge, always known as the "Roman" Bridge, stands at the southern end of the town and springs across the river in one exquisite single arch. The name is misleading; in all probability a Roman bridge stood on this same site, but the present one was built by the "Latins"—i.e. the Italians—for the Turks in A.D. 1556. At either end are the remains of the old guard houses and fortifications and narrow streets with dark Turkish shops. In the market near by may be seen the peasants in the interesting costume of the countryside.

Continuing the journey from Mostar to the coast, there may be seen on some crags on the left the ruins of the castle of Herceg Stefan's. The railways now skirt along the lower slopes of bare hills, while below lie the flat valleys; in spring these are shallow lakes when the river overflows its banks; in summer they are tawny red plains with patches of maize or corn. Four hours from Mostar there comes the first glimpse of the Adriatic far below, and then the descent to Dubrovnik II, with beautiful views of the river Ombla.

## DALMATIA AND MONTENEGRO

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*Sušak — Trsat — Bakar — Kraljevica — Crikvenica  
— Stari Grad — Sinj — Plitvice Lakes — Krk —  
Baška — Rab — Pag — Šibenik — Krka — Knin —  
Trogir — Split — Solin — Hvar — Vis — Korčula —  
Dubrovnik — Lokrum — Trsteno — Cavtat — Trebinje  
— Hercegnovi — Kotor — Cetinje — Podgorica —  
Nikšić*



## *Dalmatia, and Montenegro*

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The Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia is 400 miles long in a straight line—but there is no straight line, instead there are bays, landlocked harbours and the great fjord of Kotor nearly thirty miles long. A ship which followed the windings of the coast would steam nearly 1,200 miles between Sušak in the north and Ulcinj in the south. On the landward side runs the range of the Dinaric Alps, gaunt limestone mountains which crowd down to the sea but wherever there is a level stretch towns and villages have sprung up along the shore, some of them bearing names which are famous in European history. As far south as Dubrovnik (Ragusa) the coast is fringed with islands, large and small, to the number of 914. They are a blessing to those who do not boast themselves to be “good sailors” for most of the voyage along the coast is made under their shelter, so there is much less anxiety as to whether the sea is likely to be rough.

It is an amusing commentary on the change of

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tastes and habits to read in a pre-War Baedeker that no one would dream of visiting Dalmatia during the heat of the summer. The modern love of sea and sun-bathing has meant that in addition to spring, autumn and winter "seasons" the most popular months are now probably July, August and September, when the wise traveller reserves rooms well in advance. There is bathing to suit all tastes, from boats, rocks, or sandy beaches; there are *de luxe* establishments with restaurants and orchestras and quiet coves with a few cabins. Every seaside village now boasts its summer visitors and the individual must decide whether he wants a hotel with running water in the rooms or if he prefers a clean but humble *pension*. Though the height of summer is now the most fashionable time to visit the Adriatic coast, the climate is delightful especially in the south during most of the year. January and February are generally the rainy months, though the rainfall is less than on the French riviera and the temperature is higher. At Dubrovnik bathing usually goes on into November and begins again in March. In the spring the bare sides of the limestone mountains suddenly clothe themselves with a carpet of wild flowers and become a paradise for botanists and the humble lover of flowers. All

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through the summer the gardens are gay with oleanders, zinnias and lilies.

Travellers who wish to see the interior of the country before or after visiting the coast will find good railway connections which link Split (Spalato) and Šibenik (Sebenico) with Zagreb, and Dubrovnik with Sarajevo; in both cases the railway passes through wonderful mountain scenery and many picturesque villages. Except for the inveterate hater of all sea travel, the best way to see the coast is by steamer. There are fast Yugoslav ships from Venice and Sušak to all the most important ports; there are local steamers which run all day and every day between the smaller places and are to be recommended to those happy people to whom "time is no object".

In English it is usual to speak of the whole of the Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia as "Dalmatia"; this is not technically correct as only the southern section should be so designated, but as the name is so well established in both English minds and literature, it is both simpler and clearer to continue the inaccuracy. It was the name given by the Romans after their conquest (which began in 229 B.C.) and has continued to be used despite even Napoleon who incorporated the province in his short-lived Illyrian state. Modern archæology is

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now unearthing relics of the original inhabitants of the Balkan peninsula which show in their pottery and their jewellery an art which was both original and influenced by Greece, probably the result of the Greek colonies which existed on the Dalmatian coast. The most important of these were at Epidaurus ("Ragusa Vecchia", now Cavtat) and on the islands of Hvar (Lesina), Vis (Lissa) and Korčula (Cürzola) which is believed to have been a colony of Knidos in Asia Minor. There were other trading centres but all trace of them has long since disappeared except at Trogir (Traù), where a stone built into the wall of a convent recalls the proud fact that the colony once sent a team to compete at the Olympic games. Of the long domination of Rome, nothing of any importance remains but the splendid palace of Diocletian at Split (Spalato) and the ruins of the Christian city Solin (Salona). With the fall of the Empire, Dalmatia was invaded by the Avars and the Slavs, the latter gradually establishing themselves along the coast in the VII century. For twelve hundred years Dalmatia knew no peace; in A.D. 829 the Saracens swept up the Adriatic, burning and looting as they passed; A.D. 1000 saw the rise of Venice and from that time till her fall in 1797 she contested the supremacy

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of the Adriatic with every comer—and they were many.

If the magnificent harbours on the eastern shore were in the hands of an enemy, or became (as they frequently were) nests of pirates, all the sea-borne commerce of the Serene Republic was at their mercy. She had first to contend with the strong and united Kingdom of Croatia, then with Hungary whose king was elected to the vacant throne of Croatia when that royal house died out in A.D. 1101. Hungarian hold gradually weakened as the result of the Turkish invasion which eventually reached the mountain pass of Klis (Clissa) above Split; it was the Venetian fleet which saved Italy from invasion and stopped the victorious advance of the Crescent. Venice, however, was never able for long to hold more than the narrow strip of the coast and the islands, while Dubrovnik with an able mixture of audacity and diplomacy maintained a virtual independence. The sea-power of the Turks was broken at the battle of Lepanto in 1571 when Don John of Austria commanded the combined fleets of Christendom but the fighting on land continued until 1718 when Turkey and Venice finally made peace.

When Napoleon seized Venice, Dalmatia passed under Austrian rule, but after Austerlitz it became



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a French possession and was ruled by Marmont; as he had not command of the sea, where first the Russians and then the English cut off his communications, he was reduced to making a road from Dubrovnik to Sušak—for which motorists should remember him with gratitude. During the remainder of the Napoleonic wars Dalmatia changed hands incessantly, its fate being settled in distant capitals, until after Waterloo it was finally handed over to Austria.

From the international point of view peace reigned for a hundred years, but as the idea and ideal of southern Slav unity grew there were incessant internal struggles between Austria and her Dalmatian subjects. In the secret Treaty of London of 1915 Italy was promised northern Dalmatia and the islands off that coast, nobody at that time foreseeing the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Peace Conference entirely failed to settle the fate of Dalmatia; after long negotiations between the newly constituted Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Italy, the latter, while retaining Zara (with a predominantly Italian population) and the islands of Lussino, Cherso, Lagosta and Pelagosa, abandoned her claims to the remainder of the territory.

In writing of the Dalmatian coast it is only

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possible to describe the more important towns and islands, but many of the villages boast at least one historic building—a church, a palace, a castle—a silent witness to past greatness.

Starting from the north,

SUŠAK, on the Yugoslav-Italian frontier, is the largest port in the kingdom. It is a post-War creation; before 1918 it was merely a residential suburb of Fiume, but that town was seized by D'Annunzio in 1919 and became Italian territory by the Treaty of 1924, so the local residents with the support and encouragement of their Government set about turning Sušak into a modern commercial city with up-to-date docks. Connected with the interior by a broad gauge railway, it is now the headquarters of a thriving shipping industry and the chief outlet of the valuable timber trade.

Divided only by a narrow stream and linked by a bridge, there is an unceasing stream of traffic between Sušak and Fiume. At the Italian end of the bridge are a customs house and a passport office, at the other end their Yugoslav counterparts. Everything possible is done to facilitate the entry of tourists into Yugoslavia, the authorities merely stamping passports and enquiring the

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immediate destination of the travellers, while the customs officials are usually ready to accept a statement that there is nothing dutiable in their luggage. No trouble is experienced by motorists as the Yugoslavia Express Agency acts as the representative of the Automobile Association and attends to all formalities.

While developing the port, Sušak has not forgotten to make itself pleasant to the eye. Villas and hotels have been built along the coast, gardens and trees are plentiful; the hotels have their private bathing establishments and look across the wide Gulf of Quarnero to the long line of the mountains of Istria and south to the Island of Krk. A frequent service of motor-buses runs through this residential quarter into the centre of the town.

Another line of buses climbs by way of a wide new boulevard up to

TRSAT which stands on the top of the hill above Sušak. The energetic may also reach it by climbing the 412 Pilgrim Steps which lead to the sailors' Votive Church of the Madonna of Trsat, which was built in the XV century but has been rather unfortunately restored. There are, however, some fine baroque altars and tombs of the Frankopan family; the tiny chancel is separated

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from the nave by wrought-iron gates which have been painted silver; the small picture of the Madonna over the High Altar has a very elaborate gold and jewelled frame, reminiscent of a Russian ikon.

In a narrow street leading out of the small central square, there is a wooden door in a stone wall, bearing the word "Kastel". It is the entrance to the ruined castle of the once great and powerful Frankopan family. Belonging to the Venetian nobility—the name was originally "Frangipane"—one of the younger sons emigrated to the island of Krk; successive generations built up the family fortunes by making a habit of marrying the daughters of the Doges; moving from Krk to the mainland and adopting the Croatian form of their surname they became so rich that at one time they owned 120 castles—indeed it is difficult to go anywhere in northern Dalmatia without finding one of their ruined strongholds. Crumbling walls and towers are all that remain of their great possessions. The fortress above Sušak was begun by Julius Caesar and the Roman work is clearly visible in the lower story of one of the towers. The castle sustained sieges innumerable, notably one by the Turks in 1535 when they were defeated largely owing to the spirit shown by

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the women, who, led by the countess of that day, were indefatigable in pouring boiling oil and water on the heads of their enemies. The French occupied it when they ruled Dalmatia, both Marmont and Napoleon making it their headquarters. The old walls and towers must have felt that they were renewing their warlike past when D'Annunzio dropped seven bombs on it during his reign in Fiume.

Many excursions by steamer may be made from Sušak to the neighbouring islands and bathing resorts along the coast.

BAKAR, eight miles by road or three-quarters of an hour by sea, lies at the top of a miniature fjord, three miles long. The little medieval town is built on a spur of the hills and its brown houses with their tiled roofs rise in the shape of a triangle with its base resting on the shore. At the apex stands the Church of St. Andrew with its detached Romanesque belfry, while behind it is the gateway and ruined castle of the Frankopans. Considerable portions of the walls which made the two sides of the triangle are still standing; in the tiny square below the church is a Turkish house, its top story projecting in a curious way over the ground floor; near by is another small house with a double

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loggia, obviously once the home of a Venetian merchant. The streets are a series of stairs, too steep even for a donkey.

KRALJEVICA, today the main Yugoslav dock-yard, immediately south of Bakar, is a pleasant little town surrounded by low wooded hills; another Frankopan castle, square with round towers at each corner, commands the entrance to the harbour; it has been restored and is used as barracks. A large oblong building immediately above the quay was once the castle of the Counts Zrinjski and now serves as municipal offices.

CRIKVENICA, one hour by fast steamer from Sušak, makes no claim to historic interest beyond a XIV-century church and monastery (the latter now used as a children's convalescent home), but does lay claim to having one of the largest and finest shallow bathing beaches on the coast—it is nearly three miles long. In the centre are public gardens and behind them again are the smart shops and hotels. Crikvenica also prides itself on its gaiety—aquatic sports, regattas, tennis, evening fêtes and dancing.

STARI GRAD, a small town, has a quiet little

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beach. It is famous for its autumn processions, which were founded 900 years ago when, according to tradition, the place was saved from cholera by the Virgin Mary in whose memory a statue was erected.

There follow Selce, Novi and

SINJ, the starting-point for a cruise along the

PLANINSKI KANAL, a narrow stretch of water about eighty miles long between the islands and the mainland on which there are many villages. Four hours by car and five and a half by motor-bus from Sinj lie the

PLITVICE LAKES. (For description see the section dealing with Croatia.)

KRK, the largest of the Dalmatian islands, has an area of 270 square miles. It has shared the fate of the rest of the Adriatic lands, having been held by the Romans, the Croats and the Venetians. There are several small bathing resorts on the island, the most interesting being

KRK, the capital, on the south-west coast. It is still an unspoilt medieval town with walls, a castle,

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a XIII-century cathedral and narrow winding streets with many Venetian houses.

BAŠKA, on the east coast, rivals it in picturesqueness.

Three hours south of Crikvenica by a fast ship is

RAB (Arbe), the capital of the island of the same name, a little medieval town built on a peninsula; its walls are still practically intact and on the western side go down straight into the sea. Above them rise four Romanesque belfries of which the finest is that belonging to the cathedral, which dates from the XII century. The cathedral itself dates from the XII century, having been restored in the XIII century and again later. The plain stone walls and pillars with their acanthus leaf capitals and the baroque ceiling with plaster bas-reliefs make a strange but not unpleasing contrast. The tiny church on the extreme point is dedicated to St. Antony. On the east side of the town there is a wide quay, on which stands the ruined palace of the Venetian "counts" who represented the Republic and next to it is the Town Hall with a decorated balcony. A little farther on is the medieval palace of the archbishop and physicist, Anton Dominis, now the Grand



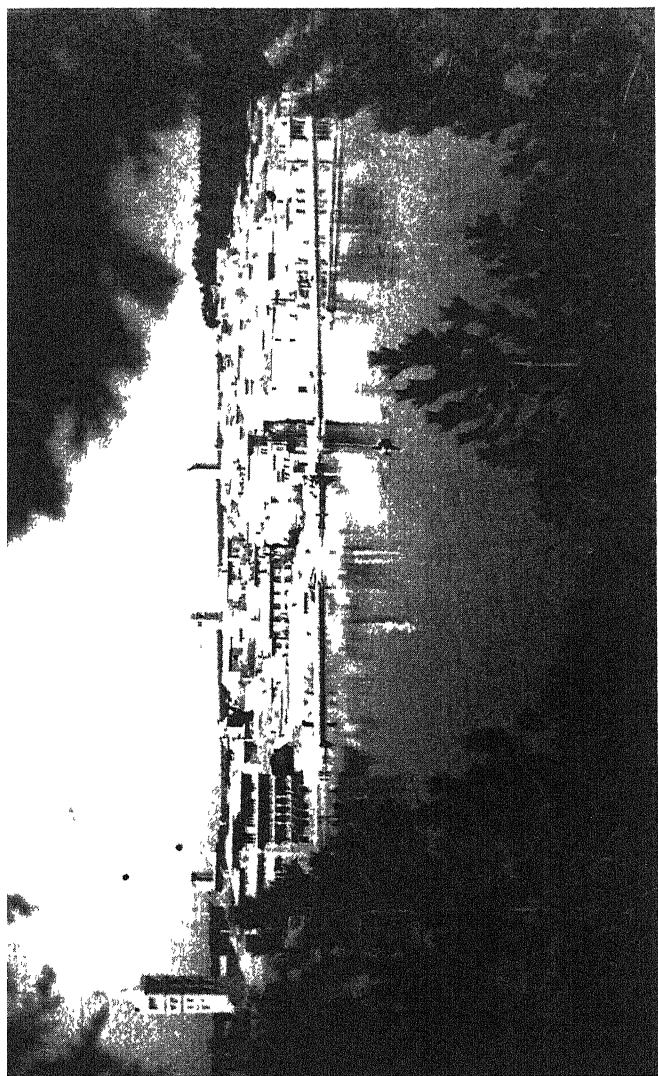
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Hotel. In many of the narrow streets are decorated windows and doorways. Beyond the town on the highest part of the peninsula is a public park with evergreen oaks and fir trees and some cool and shady walks, and many of the low promontories round the coast are covered with trees. All day long the inner and outer harbours are alive with white sails of boats taking visitors to one or other of the bathing beaches, so that it looks as if a regatta were perpetually in progress. Rab is very gay in the summer, as the hotels provide orchestras and open-air dancing.

PAG, an oblong island south of Rab, is famous for its fine embroideries and lace, which are the best in Yugoslavia; for its very beautiful costumes and for its cheese. The town is a pleasant medieval place.

From Rab a night boat takes the traveller in seven and a half hours to

ŠIBENIK (Sebenico); no town on the coast is protected by so many islands or is approached by so winding and tortuous a channel; no wonder that it was frequently a haunt of pirates. Connected by rail with Zagreb it has a busy harbour, exporting timber, bauxite, coal, marble and wine. Un-



THE TOWERS AT RAL



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like other towns on the coast it was unknown to history until the X century, when it became a stronghold of the powerful Šubić family; after their fall it was bandied about between Venice, Byzantium, Hungary and Croatia until in A.D. 1412 it came under the rule of Venice, passing after the Napoleonic wars to Austria.

The great glory of Šibenik is its XV-century cathedral, the largest church in the world built entirely of stone, but that fact is of less importance than the extraordinary beauty of the structure. There is some doubt as to the names of the architects; Sir Thomas Jackson, the greatest authority on Dalmatian architecture, attributed the nave, the north and west fronts of Italian Gothic to Antonio di Pietro Paolo, and the remainder to Giorgio Orsini. Other authorities ignore Antonio and declare that the architects were Giorgio Orsini—or to give him his local name “Juraj Dalmatinas” as he was born at Zara—and Nicola di Florentia. As it was begun in A.D. 1430 and not completed till A.D. 1536 it seems possible that they were all responsible for part of the plans.

The cathedral stands on a stone platform close to the harbour and is in the form of a Roman basilica; over the west door are carved figures

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representing the Last Judgment, with Christ in the centre holding the orb. The Lion Doorway on the north side is flanked by two elaborately carved brackets carrying lions from whose backs spring octagonal shafts supporting figures of Adam and Eve. Above these again are two small tabernacles containing figures and over all an elaborately carved cornice, which Sir Thomas Jackson regarded as marking the end of Antonio's work. The church is about 120 feet long, the magnificent stone barrel roof being supported by monolith columns; the cupola, with its windows which flood the church with light, is 100 feet high, while round the interior is an exquisite cornice of foliage carved in stone. The baptistry, the font, the tracings of the windows and the carvings both inside and out are some of the most beautiful, not only in Dalmatia, but in Europe.

Opposite the side door of the cathedral is a charming little Renaissance loggia (A.D. 1522), originally the palace of the Venetian governor. Many of the houses in the narrow winding streets still have carved coats-of-arms over their doors and sculptured doorways and windows. The small Church of St. John has a curious external staircase. On the top of the hill above the town are the castles of St. Anne, the Šubićevac and St. John.

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Ten miles from Šibenik are the famous falls of the

KRKA (Kerka); for some distance the river resembles a series of small lakes and then hurls itself over fifty waterfalls, the highest being 150 feet and 300 feet wide, while the banks are covered with trees and verdure. The best way to visit the falls is to take a motor-car to Skradrin (Scardona of Roman times) and then a boat up the river. A Franciscan convent, which possesses a valuable library, stands on the island of Visovac in the middle of a lake four miles above the falls; from that point to the source of the Krka there are seven more waterfalls, one over 200 feet in height.

KNIN, two hours by rail from Šibenik, has a remarkable museum of Croatian art; most of the objects have been found in and around that town and date from the golden age of Croatian culture —A.D. 892–928.

Following the line of the coast the next town of interest is that jewel of the Middle Ages

TROGIR (Traù), but as it is more easily visited from Split a description of it will follow the account of that city.

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SPLIT (Spalato) disputes with Dubrovnik for the position of being the most interesting town on the Dalmatian coast; it is a point which must be decided by each individual for himself as it depends whether his taste is classical or medieval.

Seen from the harbour there is a moment's delay before it is possible to pick out the remaining columns of the crypto-porticus of Diocletian's palace from the brown walls of the houses which have been built between them.

No modern description of the glories of the palace equals that written by Robert Adam in 1764—

This city, though of no great extent, is so happily situated that it appears, when viewed from the sea, not only picturesque but magnificent. . . . The palace of Diocletian at Spalato possessed all those advantages of situation to which the ancients were most attentive, and which they reckoned essential to every agreeable villa. . . . The views from the palace are no less beautiful than the soil and climate were inviting. . . . The palace itself was a work so great that the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus, who had seen the most splendid buildings of the ancients, affirms that no plan or description can convey a perfect idea of its magnificence. The extent of the ground it occupied is surprising at first sight; the dimensions of one side of the quadrangle, including the towers, being no less than 698 feet and of the

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other 592 feet, making the superficial content 413,216 feet, being nine and a half English acres. But when we consider that it contained proper apartments, not only for the Emperor himself and for the numerous retinue of officers who attended his court, but likewise edifices and open spaces for exercises of different kinds; that it was capable of lodging a pretorian cohort; and that two temples were erected within its precincts, we will not conclude the area to have been too large for such a variety of buildings.

Diocletian himself remains one of the enigmas of history; neither he nor any historian has ever explained why, after ruling the Roman Empire for twenty-one years, he decided to abdicate. Gibbon says of him—

As the reign of Diocletian was more illustrious than that of any of his predecessors, so was his birth more abject and obscure. . . . The parents of Diocletian had been slaves in the house of Anulinus, a Roman senator; nor was he himself distinguished by any other name than that he derived from a small town in Dalmatia, from which his mother deduced her origin. . . . His abilities were useful rather than splendid: a vigorous mind, improved by the experience and study of mankind; dexterity and application in business; a judicious mixture of liberality and economy, of mildness and vigour; profound dissimulation under the guise of military frankness; steadiness to pursue his ends; flexibility to vary his means; and, above all, the great art of submitting his own passions, as well



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as those of others, to the interest of his ambition with the most specious pretences of justice and public utility.

If this character sketch is correct it only serves to deepen the mystery. His rise to power was steady rather than meteoric, and in A.D. 284 he was elected by the army of Chalcedon to reign conjointly with Maximian; strangely enough he extracted a promise from that restless spirit that in the event of his wishing to resign the purple that Maximian would do the same. Probably Maximian gave his word lightly enough, thinking that such a contingency would never arrive, but after twenty-one years of military successes and administrative reconstruction, he was suddenly called upon to abandon the power and the glory and to follow Diocletian into obscurity.

The palace at Split was begun in A.D. 295 and, despite the devastation of centuries, is still the greatest example of Roman architecture in the world. The road along the harbour front is new, for in the days of Diocletian the sea came right up to the wall of the palace, but the tiny archway in the centre, where there originally was a flight of steps, is still the only entrance in the great wall. The level of the ground inside has risen about six feet, so the massive arches on either side of the narrow passage are now half buried. The

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"crypto-porticus" or loggia ran the whole length of the southern side of the palace and was adorned with sculptures, pictures and bas-reliefs, of which, alas, not one remains and only a few of its forty-four Corinthian columns are now visible.

The passage leads through the vaults to the steps of the peristyle, with its splendid arcades; on the right is the building now the Cathedral of Split, which was either a temple to Jove or was built by Diocletian as his mausoleum—archæologists still dispute its original purpose. Of the Corinthian pillars which surrounded it only nineteen out of twenty-five are still standing, but the steps remain, as does the sphinx on top, which was brought by the Emperor from Egypt and probably belongs to the eighteenth dynasty, XV–XVI century B.C. The great portico was pulled down to make way for the Romanesque belfry. The carved doors of the cathedral, dating from A.D. 1214, were the work of Buvina of Split and are regarded by Sir Thomas Jackson as the finest example of medieval woodwork in existence. Despite the XVII-century choir and the two Gothic chapels, that on the right erected in A.D. 1427 by Bonino of Milan and that on the left by Giorgio Orsini in A.D. 1448, the interior remains very much as it was in the days of Diocletian.

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The eight bays are divided by granite columns carrying an elaborate cornice, while above again are another eight columns of granite and porphyry alternately. The wooden choir stalls with their curious lattice panels are probably also the work of Buvina. The elaborately carved pulpit with winged beasts and foliage is of the XIII century.

On the top of the steps at the southern end of the Peristyle is a heroic figure in bronze of the Croatian Bishop Gregory of Nin by the famous Yugoslav sculptor, Ivan Meštrović. Behind it is the portico with four Corinthian columns and a decorated cornice, and the entrance to all that now remains of the splendid vestibulum of the palace. To the left is the exquisite little temple of Aesculapius, which now serves Split as a Baptistery. It has lost its portico and pediment, but its stone barrel roof is still intact and probably gave the original inspiration for the Cathedral at Šibenik.

From the peristyle run the roads which led to the massive land gates of the palace; of these only the Porta Aurea on the north and the Porta Aenea on the east still remain, while the walls and towers on those sides are virtually intact. The other gates and walls were destroyed by the Venetians, whose fortifications have in their turn disappeared except for the Hrvoje Tower.

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The old Town Hall is a charming example of Venetian Gothic architecture and now houses an interesting collection of local costumes.

With the death of Diocletian in A.D. 313, the palace was used as a residence for unpopular members of the imperial families; it was gradually abandoned and eventually became a refuge for the Christians who fled from the Avars after the destruction of Salona. Under the Croatian kings Split knew a fresh era of prosperity, but in 1420 the Town Council recognised the sovereignty of Venice.

In the archæological Museum are housed the most important objects which have been found during the excavations at Solin and at Split itself, including sarcophagi, jewellery, coins, etc.

A motor-bus runs along the sea-front to the town bathing establishment in the shady cove of Bačvice. One of the beauty-spots of Split is Marjan with a very fine park on the hill towering above the town from which there is a wonderful view. It has good restaurants with excellent orchestras and is very popular on summer nights.

SOLIN (Salona), once a great Christian city, the capital of one of the richest provinces of the Empire, now a heap of ruins, is four miles from Split.

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It was sacked by the Goths in A.D. 535, recaptured, again taken by the Goths in A.D. 547 and finally destroyed by the Avars in 614; since that day it has served as a stone quarry not only for the surrounding villages, for Split and Trogir, but even for Venice herself. The foundations of three great basilicas, of the Roman baths and of an amphitheatre have been laid bare, besides an immense number of sarcophagi. The lines of the walls which led down to the harbour can still be traced, but the configuration of the ground has changed and where there was once sea there are now rich meadows. Four miles beyond Solin is the famous pass of

KLIS (Clissa), 1,200 feet above sea-level, still dominated by the ruins of the Turkish castle which was a perpetual menace to the Venetian possession of Split.

From Solin the road leads along through rich low lying land known as the Riviera of the

SEVEN CASTLES—Sućurac, Gomilica, Kambe-<sup>117</sup>lovac, Lukšić, Stari, Novi and Štafeljč—which were built along the shore by the Venetians in the XV and XVI centuries for protection against the Turks. Ten miles from Solin stands

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TROGIR (Traù) on its tiny island, connected with the mainland by a bridge. It has lost the walls which once protected it but otherwise is little altered since the days of its greatness. The palaces of the noble families of the Cippicos, the Garagins, the Fanfognas and many others, still stand in its narrow streets and along the waterfront facing the island of Ciovo. The cathedral is justly described as one of the glories of Dalmatia and the glory of the cathedral is the Galilee porch of the Dalmatian sculptor, Radovan. It stretches across the whole of the west end of the church and has protected the magnificent sculptures which adorn the west doorway; in addition to the figures of Adam and Eve there is a wonderful series of scenes from country life, while in the tympanum above the door is a small figure of St. Lawrence. The cathedral was built in the XIII century; it is in the form of a Roman basilica and is of immense height, the capitals of the pillars having simple leaf carving. The fine choir-stalls date from the XV century and the High Altar has a double canopy. The belfry was begun in the XV century but the top story and the spire were added at the end of the XVI century.

Beside the cathedral stands the Town Hall, a XV-century building, while opposite is a charming

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little renaissance loggia where justice was administered in the days of Venetian rule. On the sea stand the shells of the great Kamerlengo and St. Marc castles, both built in the XV century.

Of the Greek colony nothing remains except that one stone to which reference has already been made; Trogir has shared all the vicissitudes of her larger neighbours, she has been sacked and governed by Romans, Serbs, Venetians and Hungarians in turn; she was held by Venice for over 300 years and by Austria for a hundred. Today she dreams peacefully beside her inland sea.

MAKARSKA, about three hours south of Split on the mainland, is becoming increasingly popular; it has an excellent beach but no buildings of historical interest.

Two hours from Split lies the island of

HVAR (Lesina), once the Greek Pharos; there was a prosperous colony on the northern end of the island but like other Greek towns on the Adriatic it has entirely disappeared. On the west of the island lies the little town of Hvar in a sheltered harbour. It has been described as a "museum of architecture and art", but as in many museums,

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some of its treasures are today but battered remains of their former beauty. The walls run straight up the hillside to the Spanish fort built by the Emperor Charles V during a short Spanish occupation; bas-reliefs of the Venetian lion have been built into both the towers. On the right at the end of the quay is the arsenal, built in A.D. 1300, burnt by the Turks in the XVI century and restored by the Venetians in the XVII; it is now the fruit market. Next to it, facing the square, is the former warehouse of the Venetian merchants. At the end of the square is the little XII-century cathedral, unhappily restored in the XVII century; there are two stone pulpits facing each other at either end of the choir-stalls; the west end, like many other buildings in Hvar, has weathered to a lovely creamy gold. Just out of the square in a little turning to the left is the shell of a fine palace with Venetian-Gothic windows.

Opposite the end of the harbour is the exquisite Renaissance loggia with seven arches; it is attributed to Sanmichele, but as it was built in A.D. 1515-17 after his death, it is perhaps by one of his pupils. It was carefully restored in 1907 and is now used as a café. The streets running up the hill are all flights of steps; there is hardly a house



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which has not a blurred coat-of-arms, a charming row of windows or the remains of a stone balcony, to tell of former greatness.

Facing the harbour a road to the left leads along the quay to the Franciscan Church, and to the monastery, which has a beautiful belfry (one of the three which the town boasts) and a fine Luca della Robbia. On the right there is a wooded promontory on the other side of which is the bathing beach.

To the west of Hvar is the island of

VIS (Lissa) on which once existed the most important Green colony on the Adriatic, with its tributary towns on the mainland. Under the Romans it remained a free and very rich town and many fine baths and mosaic pavements are preserved in the park. Perhaps for British visitors its chief interest lies in the fact that from A.D. 1808 to A.D. 1815 it was used by the British not only as a naval base but also as a commercial centre for the export of goods through Dalmatia into the centre of Europe, thus setting Napoleon's embargo on British goods at defiance. So prosperous did the island become that in three years the population rose from 4,000 to 12,000.

Captain (afterwards Sir George) Hoste com-

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manded the small squadron based on Vis. He too came from Norfolk and from the age of twelve had served under Nelson; he rose to be one of that Admiral's frigate captains and his years in the Adriatic after Trafalgar showed how much of his dead leader's fire and dash he had inherited and learnt. He harried the French communications at sea until a definite effort had to be made to destroy him, and in A.D. 1811 the French commodore was ordered to take Lissa. He had under his command four frigates, two corvettes mounting 236 guns and carrying 1,848 men, and in addition five small vessels with crews amounting to 307 men and having on board 400-500 soldiers to provide a garrison for the town. Hoste had four small ships mounting 124 guns and carrying 878 men. He sighted the French fleet on the morning of March 13th, and immediately engaged it; by 3 p.m. it was destroyed; well might the Senior Naval Officer in the Adriatic write to the Admiralty that "the bravery, discipline and professional knowledge of the British seamen never was [*sic*] more conspicuous". In A.D. 1812 the British took over the government of the island and in A.D. 1813 that of Cùrzola, ruling them until they were handed over to Austria in A.D. 1815. The British occupation is still commemorated in Vis

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by a lighthouse named after Hoste and by the two forts—St. George and Wellington.

Vis is three hours by local boat service from Split, and is famous for its vineyards and its wines. The tiny old town of Komiža is well known as a centre of Yugoslav fishing industry.

Four miles from Komiža there is a famous blue grotto at a place called Viševo, which is compared with the "grotto azzurro" at Capri. It is lighted through an opening in the cliff, under water. The best time to enjoy its beauty is between 10 a.m. and noon in summer, when the whole interior of the grotto becomes blue, and the water a silvery green.

Three hours south of Hvar is

KORČULA (Cérzola). The island, which is thirty-one miles long and four to six wide, was also once a Greek possession. It was known as Corcyra Melaina from the pine-woods that covered it, long since cut down to provide wood to build galleys for Venice. The town of Korčula stands on a typically Greek site, a tiny hill surrounded on three sides by the sea and connected with the mainland by a narrow isthmus. It shared to the full the other vicissitudes of the Adriatic islands, but two events in its history are

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worthy of special mention; during the wars between Venice and Genoa in the XIII century it was seized by the latter power and when in A.D. 1298 the great Venetian admiral Andrea Dandolo gave battle to the Genoese in the little harbour, he was signally defeated and, sooner than be carried a prisoner to Genoa, he beat his brains out against the side of the galley. The Genoese, however, made another prisoner who was destined to be even more famous—Marco Polo, who was a native of Cúrzola. The walls and three of the towers are still complete though the former have been considerably lowered to admit light and air to the town.

In the small open space on the top of the hill stands the cathedral; the porch of Venetian-Gothic has two brackets with couchant lions with singularly distressed expressions; above the west door is a beautiful rose window and owing to lack of space the belfry with its fine octagonal bell-chamber has been incorporated in the church itself. The elaborately carved cornice of the gable has at one end the bust of a young man and at the other an elephant's head; in the centre is the head of a woman, believed to be a portrait of the wife of Charles II of Naples who died in A.D. 1323. The interior has been restored several times, which has led to such a confusion of styles that

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Sir Thomas Jackson found it very difficult to assign any definite date to the church; he believed that it had been built originally in the XII century and much altered in the XIII century. The five arches on each side of the nave are pointed and those above are rounded, the carving of the capitals varying considerably; a handsome doorway leads into the sacristy and Sir Thomas Jackson believed it to have been the work of a German sculptor who lived in Cúrzola in A.D. 1388.

From the cathedral the street leads down to a little square in which is a Venetian loggia with some broken fragments of carvings. Beyond there is an archway and a wide flight of steps, and in the open space outside the walls is a round stone platform with stone benches which were erected in honour of the British governor of the town. Above is a wooded hill on the top of which is the "English Fort", with fine views of the town and across the narrow channel to the mainland. A road leads round the harbour to the Dominican Church and convent on a little point; below the buildings there is a path to a tiny cove where there is bathing from the rocks. The hotels run motor-boats to the regular bathing-beach, which is about seven minutes from the harbour.

Those who can, should arrange to be in Kor-

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čula on June 29th, the day of St. Theodore, the patron saint of the town, to see the famous "Moreška", the medieval dance representing a combat between the Turkish sultan and the Moorish king who has seized his bride. Danced by young men in red and black costumes with swords in each hand it is not merely interesting from the historical point of view but is a beautiful and dramatic performance.

Four hours from Korčula lies

DUBROVNIK, the commercial port and railway station, "half" being referred to as Dubrovnik II. Probably no town in the world has ever been so praised as Dubrovnik (Ragusa); the dictionary has been ransacked for adjectives to describe its beauties and its medieval buildings, and yet there is no case recorded of a visitor who has been disappointed or felt that it had been overpraised.

Perhaps the first impression of the traveller is surprise at its smallness; how could such a tiny city have bulked so large in history and commerce, have sent its ships to Lepanto, (where it is whispered they were fighting on both sides), have supplied a squadron for the "Invincible Armada", and provided sailors to man the fleets of southern Europe? It must be remembered that territory

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of the Republic stretched almost to the Bocche di Cattaro, including several islands, and that the palaces of the rich merchants stood on the Lapad Peninsula until they were burnt down by the attacking Russians when the French held the town in the beginning of the XIX century.

When the Avars swept into Dalmatia in the VII century and destroyed the Greco-Roman town of Epidaurus, the surviving inhabitants sought refuge on the tiny peninsula where Dubrovnik now stands; gradually they were joined by other Christians from along the coast and a new town sprang up, while Slavs settled on the lower slopes of Mount Srdj (Monte Sergio); gradually the two populations amalgamated, a bridge was thrown across the narrow inlet of the sea (now covered by the Placa), walls were built and prosperity began to dawn. For 200 years Ragusa was part of the Eastern Empire; in A.D. 874 she sustained a siege by the Saracens which lasted for fifteen months when the town was relieved by a fleet from Constantinople, and such was the energy and enterprise of her citizens that she supplied the Emperor with transports to pursue the enemy to Italy.

After the rise of Venice she alternately fought with that Republic against the Dalmatian pirates and with the pirates against Venice; she became

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involved in the quarrels of the Eastern Empire and sided with Emperor Michael VII and the Normans against Alexius Comnenus and Venice, her fleet distinguishing itself at the battle of Dyrrhachium. Finally in the beginning of the XIII century Venetian power became predominant in the Adriatic and for 150 years a Venetian count ruled in Ragusa; he seems to have interfered but little in the affairs of the Republic. Then came the turn of Hungary from A.D. 1326 to A.D. 1426. The king was the nominal overlord; he had no resident representative and the Republic merely paid a yearly tribute. After the defeat of the Hungarians at Mohacs by the Turks, Ragusa passed under the equally nominal suzerainty of the Sultan. Always on the search for powerful protectors whom she could play off one against the other, Ragusa by a triumph of diplomacy in A.D. 1570 placed herself under the protection of such oddly assorted guardians as the Papacy, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, Venice, Hungary, and at the same time the Sultan and the Barbary Beys. But not all these principalities and powers could save Ragusa from the terrible earthquake of A.D. 1667, which was followed by an equally terrible fire. Help came from all over Europe and the undaunted survivors rebuilt the town in the form



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in which it stands today. Once again her overseas trade was organised and ships flying her flag were to be found in the harbours of England, of India, of South America, of the Spanish Main, as well as in every port in Europe where there was business to be done.

Though so far from the centre of the disturbances, it was the policy of Napoleon which finally brought about the downfall of Ragusa; in A.D. 1806 she had to choose between admitting French or Russian troops—disliking and fearing both, she finally chose the French, who at least promised “liberty, equality and fraternity”. In two years her constitution had been abolished and she was incorporated in the Kingdom of Illyria. Even Marmont, French marshal though he was and acting under the Emperor’s orders, bewailed her fate—“It is from these happy people that we have brutally taken both peace and prosperity.” One of the best descriptions of Ragusa is to be found in the little-known memoirs of the marshal, writing as an old man he still remembered her beauty and charm.

In A.D. 1814 Marmont, having left Dalmatia, an Austrian force consisting of only two Croat battalions appeared before the town, which was regarded as impregnable and was held by the

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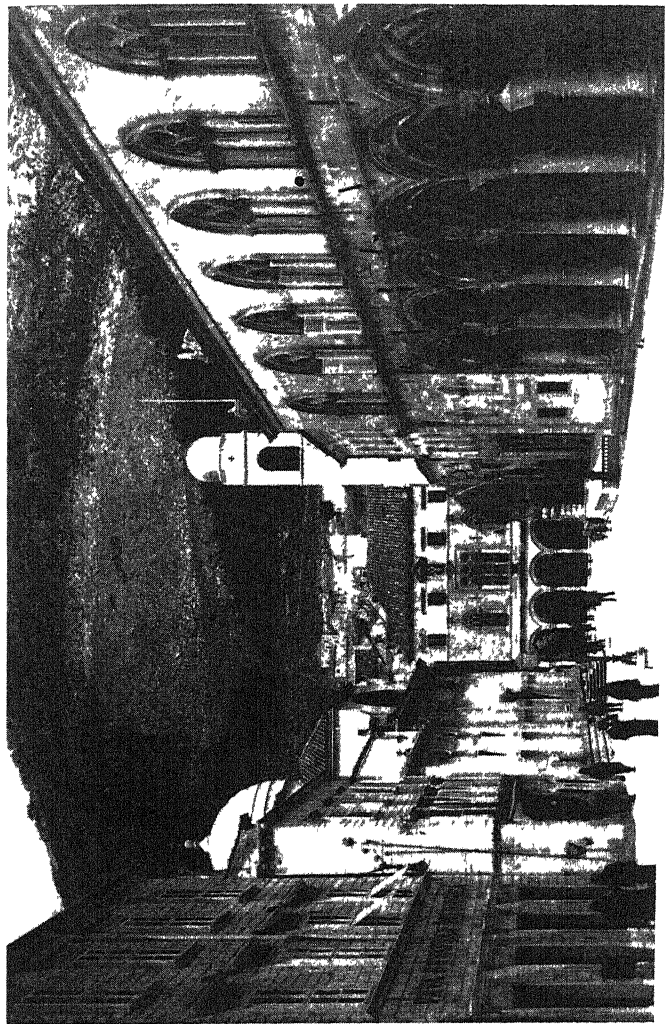
French with 500 men and 152 guns. The Austrian general was helpless as he had no artillery, but the indefatigable and undaunted Captain Hoste sailed in in the *Bacchante* and landed four mortars and two 18-pounders; despite the terrible rain and cold the blue-jackets dragged the guns up the slopes of Mount Srdj. Presumably the French general had heard what had happened at Cattaro and surrendered on the spot. Ragusa remained under Austrian rule till A.D. 1918.

Much of the wealth of Ragusa was produced not merely by her great fleet of merchant ships but also by her position as the port for the trade of the Balkans and the Near East. From outside the southern gate started the caravan route which led to Constantinople, and on the backs of mules came the wool, skins, iron, silver, honey and wax of the hinterland as well as the luxury goods of the Ottoman Empire. On their return journeys the mules carried the manufactured goods of Europe, and on all Ragusa took her profit. Today there is a secondary school where formerly stood the great caravanserai of the Balkan merchants. So famous were the cargoes of her ships that in the Middle Ages, when the town was known in England as "Arragourse" or "Arragosa", it gave a new word to the English language—"argosy".

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The road from Dubrovnik II climbs over the narrow neck connecting the Lapad peninsula with the mainland and then sweeps round under the eastern wall to continue its way to the south; no motor-car can go through the town. Outside the Pile Gate on the north-west there is a tiny square over a cove with a fine view of the massive Fort St. Lawrence on the sea and the Minčeta Tower on the landward side. Across the moat, now filled with trees and flowers, and on the inner wall of the Pile Gate is a fine bas-relief by Meštrović of King Peter. Inside the gate is all that remains of the fountain designed by Orofrio de la Cava in A.D. 1438, the statues which surmounted it having been destroyed by the earthquake. Straight on is the Stradun, the principal street of the town, over what was once an arm of the sea.

Immediately on the left is a doorway which leads to the flights of steps to the top of the walls—those massive impregnable walls which defied alike earthquakes and enemies and are as perfect as the day they were built. They are 2,123 yards in circumference and it is possible to walk all round them, except for the part over the harbour which is used as barracks. On the west and south the sea washed their base, while on the east rise the barren slopes of Mount Srdj.



THE CUSTOM HOUSE AT DUBROVNIK



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Beyond the entrance to the walls is the Church of St. Saviour (A.D. 1520) with a fine Renaissance portal, and behind it the exquisite cloisters of the Franciscan Monastery which mercifully survived the earthquake. They were built in the beginning of the XIV century by "Meeser Mycha", an Albanian, the Romanesque shafts having capitals with carvings of flowers, fruit, animals and masks. In one corner is an "apothecary" dating from A.D. 1317—surely the oldest chemist shop in Europe.

All the houses on the Stradun were built after the earthquake, which by some good fortune spared the two most important secular buildings in Dubrovnik. At the far end on the left is the Customs House and Mint; the ground floor dates from the beginning of the XIV century, the first floor loggia was added in A.D. 1520, while the top story is Renaissance. All three periods blend happily together and there is a fine inner courtyard. In the square outside is a statue of Roland the Paladin who is credited by legend with having helped to defend the town against the Saracens; above the statue was hoisted the standard of the Republic, and in front of it all laws and decrees were read to the people.

Next to the Customs House is the Ploče Gate,

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with its clock-tower, and in a line with it is the Rector's Palace which the Regusans proudly claim to be as beautiful as that of the Doges. Many buildings have stood on the site only to be destroyed by fire or earthquakes; the present is the work of Micelozzo Michellozzi, the architect of the Riccardi Palace and Chapel in Florence, and of Giorgio Orsini—"Juraj of Dalmatia"—one of the architects of the cathedral at Šibenik. Michellozzi was responsible for the ground floor with its colonnade of seven massive pillars erected in A.D. 1464; the rest of the building was carried out by Orsini, who probably adopted the design of the former palace of Onofrio de la Cava. Over the main entrance is a statue of St. Blaise—the patron saint of Dubrovnik—with a model of the town in his hand; the marble benches on either side were used by the rector and councillors on ceremonial occasions. There is a fine courtyard with a double loggia and a stone staircase.

Passing under the clock-tower and the Ploča Gate an archway on the right leads to the harbour. This is the "new" harbour, made in A.D. 1495 to deal with the growing commerce and to accommodate the largest ships. On two sides tower the high walls and the fort defending the entrance;

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on the third side may still be traced the Gothic windows of the building which was once the quarantine station. Along the wall commanding the best view of the harbour runs a stone bench; how many hundreds of years the rich merchants must have sat on that bench, watching their ships warping out and waiting for their return! The present town council have cut arches in the wall to provide windows for a café, but it has been done with so much taste that they do not spoil the general effect. On the left a stone ramp with a Renaissance balustrade leads to the Dominican Church and cloisters, both of which also survived the earthquake. If there is little of interest in the church except a Titian altarpiece, the cloisters vie in beauty with those of the Franciscans. Erected in the middle of the XIV century the round bays are supported by two pillars and two pilasters, the shields above showing a strong Byzantine influence. The road leads on by a bridge across the moat to the outer gate.

Immediately opposite the entrance to the harbour is the island of

LOKRUM (Lacroma) on which in A.D. 1190 two pirate ships were wrecked; one of them carried Richard Cœur-de-Lion of England on the way



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back from his disastrous crusade. There are many claimants to the honour of being the spot where Richard was wrecked, but Lokrum seems the most probable, else why should he have built and richly endowed a cathedral in Dubrovnik in gratitude for his escape from drowning? Today nothing remains of that magnificent church; it was destroyed in the earthquake. The present church was built in A.D. 1713 and contains paintings by Titian, Padovanino and Catena. The Church of St. Blaise, another neo-classical edifice, behind the Roland Statue, also replaces one destroyed in the earthquake.

A hundred yards outside the Ploča Gate there is a flight of steps leading down to the new town bathing beach, and several of the hotels and *pensions* beyond have their private bathing establishments; immediately opposite the Hotel Imperial (outside the Pile Gate) is a narrow street which runs down to a sheltered cove where there are bathing cabins. The best beach is on the Lapad, twenty minutes by electric tram (change just before reaching Dubrovnik II); there is a wide bay with beautiful sand and an excellent restaurant.

Motor-boats from the harbour of Dubrovnik ply to

## DALMATIA AND MONTENEGRO

LOKRUM, on the seaward side of which is the building which was once the villa of the ill-fated Archduke Maximilian, afterwards Emperor of Mexico. It is now a children's convalescent home, but the park and gardens still remain.

A pleasant walk is to St. James's, an old Benedictine Monastery half an hour from the Ploča Gate, "best in the evening" when there is a wonderful view of Dubrovnik with the sun setting behind it. From Fort Imperial on the summit of Mount Srdj (one and a half hours) can be seen the whole coast-line down to the Boka Kotorska.

TRSTENO (Cánnosa) to the north-west can be reached either by steamer or by car, a very pretty drive along the banks of the Rijeka (Ombla), one of the curious Dalmatian rivers which gush out of the faces of the limestone cliffs. At Trsteno is the villa of one of the former noble families of Ragusa, Basegli-Gozze, surrounded by a park of tropical trees; both villa and park are open to the public. In the centre of the village are two enormous and famous gingko trees.

Also to be reached by car or steamer, seventeen miles to the south-east is

CAVTAT (Epidaurus, Ragusa Vecchia), famous

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as having been the birthplace of Æsculapius, "the blameless physician" of Homer, who became a god. The Greek colony was conquered by the Romans, ruins of whose baths and aqueduct are still to be seen. The little town is built on a promontory at the end of which is the mausoleum of the Račić family, of which Meštrović was both the designer and the sculptor. Mr. Stanley Casson in his book, *Some Modern Sculptors*, declares that it is the summit of Meštrović's achievement, "a work which shows all his styles and all his capacities harmonised in and working for one end".

TREBINJE is two hours from Dubrovnik by motor-car. It is a small medieval town, with two mosques and well-preserved oriental quarters. On market days (Wednesdays and Saturdays) it is filled with peasants in the picturesque costumes of Montenegro, Dalmatia and Hercegovina. Some of the old Turkish houses are particularly worth seeing. Wood carving, for which that part of the country is famous, is very plentiful and very beautiful.

The journey by motor-car from Višegrad to Dubrovnik via Sarajevo is one of the pleasantest trips that could be undertaken by those who come

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to the country with their own cars. The road leads through the beautiful mountain ranges, high above the river-bed of Drina which cuts its way through the mountain cliffs, but which is seen all the time. The journey is no less pleasant in the newly introduced motor-train that turns that part of the line with its hundred tunnels into a real pleasure. It is now possible to travel to Dubrovnik from Beograd by day time in a motor-train and to enjoy it in a way in which it was formerly not possible.

It is difficult to advise the traveller whether he should go to

KOTOR (Cattaro) by sea or road for both routes have much to recommend them; the ideal is to proceed by ship and return by car. The fringe of islands ceases at Dubrovnik and the mountains come down sheer into the sea, until after less than three hours steaming the ship swings in between Cape Ostro and the fortified island of Rondoni and enters the Bay of Topla with

HERCEGNOVI (Castel Nuovo) lying on its northern shore, with its ruined Saracen and Spanish castles. It is a sheltered little town with good bathing. The lower slopes of the hills are

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covered with trees and vineyards, while above them tower the barren limestone mountains. In the neighbourhood of Hercegnovi there is a medieval Orthodox monastery, Savina by name, which was visited by the late King Alexander on the eve of his departure for Marseilles. It has in the visitors' book the last signature of the late king. On the opposite shore is

TIVAT, the chief base of the Yugoslav Navy. After fifteen miles the fjord narrows and then opens out again into the Bay of Teodo, so reminiscent of one of the Swiss lakes on an infinitely larger scale. The Channel of the Chains, so called because Louis of Hungary tried to close it to the Venetian fleet by stretching chains across it, leads to the Gulf of Kotor; to the north lies a wide bay with

RISAN (Rhizinium of the Romans) at its head and the two islands with the votive churches of Our Lady and St. George. To the south, at the end of a long and narrow inlet, lies the town of Kotor. Again every adjective of praise and admiration has been used to describe the beauties of this thirty-mile long harbour and again no one will feel that it has been overpraised.

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The road which runs from Dubrovnik to Kotor leaves the Adriatic coast shortly after Cavtat and winds through wooded and cultivated valleys until it reaches a low pass above Hercegnovi and the whole of the Bay of Topla is spread out below. On the north is Mount Orjen, the highest of this range (6,100 feet), while above Kotor to the south is Mount Lovćen, the guardian of Montenegro. Passing through Hercegnovi the road follows the shore of the lake and so provides the means of seeing the many picturesque little villages which lie between the mountains and the sea. Returning from Kotor by car it is possible to skirt the whole of the southern shore as far as the Channel of the Chains, which is crossed by a ferry.

KOTOR (Cattaro) itself is crushed in between the sea and the face of a cliff; the walls which still enclose the old town climb up to a fort which seems to grow out of the side of the mountain. Kotor shared to the full all the changes and chances of the Dalmatian coast, adding to its experiences by having been besieged by Captain Hoste and his tiny squadron in A.D. 1813. It was at that time held by a French general with plenty of men and guns; he watched the prepara-

## DALMATIA AND MONTENEGRO

tions of the "mad English" with great contempt, but he reckoned without the dauntless ingenuity of the British Navy; guns were dragged up into what he regarded as unscalable positions—this despite the most terrible cold and a gale of wind and rain. In less than a month the general surrendered, but he made a serious complaint to an army officer who had been a passenger in Captain Hoste's ship, on the unconventional way in which the Navy had carried on the siege. This Captain Angelo evidently fully sympathised with his fellow soldier, for he replied: "Do you not know with whom you are contending? You are not engaged with soldiers, who do all these things in a regular technical manner, you are opposed to sailors—people who do nothing like other men." When Hoste was made one of the first Knights of the new Order of the Bath in A.D. 1815 the word "Cattaro" appeared on his crest; the capture of that town was regarded by himself and the Admiralty as an even greater feat than his victory off Vis.

The Cathedral of St. Tryphon contains the relics of that saint which were sent to the town as a gift from Constantinople in A.D. 809; it has suffered from earthquakes and restorations; the fine Romanesque nave and aisles still remain but



THE BAY OF KOTOR





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the two towers of the west end were built in A.D. 1681. The beautiful canopy over the High Altar is XIV century; on three sides of the architrave are carvings showing the life of St. Tryphon which are full of vigour. In the treasury is the Cross which was used for blessing the Army before the defeat of the Turks in front of Vienna in A.D. 1681. In a square close to the cathedral stand the interesting old churches of St. Luke and its tiny neighbour St. Spiridione.

Stretching between the Gulf of Kotor and the mouth of the Bojana on the Albanian frontier, there is a series of small seaside resorts with excellent beaches. Budva is perhaps the best known, but St. Stephen and the old pirate-haunted Ulcinj are well worth a visit.

From the wide quayside starts the road which leads up to

CETINJE (twenty-eight miles), the former capital of Montenegro; made by the Austrians before the World War for strategic purposes, the road climbs the mountain side by a series of hair-pin bends, each of which gives a new and more lovely view of the Boka. A stop should be made at the top of the pass to see what Badaecker in an unusual burst of excitement calls "a scene almost

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unsurpassed in Europe". A little farther on is the village of Njegos, with a farmhouse, the birth-place of the late King Nicholas, great-grandfather of the present King of Yugoslavia. It is the proud boast of the Montenegrins that they were never conquered by the Turks, and to this tiny mountain state fled many Serbs during the dark centuries of Moslem oppression. The original inhabitants of the country were probably Illyrians but for over a thousand years the Montenegrins have been a branch of the Southern Slav race.

Cetinje lies in a *karst* valley, 2,000 feet above sea-level; it contains the former Royal Palace, now a museum, modern government buildings, an Orthodox Church and the Monastery of St. Gospodja, the burial place of the Montenegrin Princes. Those who wish to climb Mount Lovćen should drive to the Sanatorium just below the summits, Jezerski, 5,460 feet and Štirovník, 5,800 feet; on the higher of the two is the mausoleum of Peter Ptrović Njegoš, one of the greatest of Montenegrin Princes and of Jugoslav poets, the author of the *Gorski Vijenac*, *A Mountain Garland*, translated into English by J. Wiles.

Motor-buses from Cetinje to Budva and Bar on the coast, and to Podgorica and Peć pass through some of the finest mountain scenery of Monte-

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negro. (For a description of Peć see the Section dealing with South Serbia.)

It should not be imagined that that bare limestone coast is the essence of Montenegro proper. The real Montenegro needs looking for, and expeditions should be made from Cetinje. Thirty miles from this town lies

PODGORICA, the commercial centre of Montenegro, and a visit to this town on market day will not be forgotten. The castle, variously referred to as Duklja and Diocleia, not far from Podgorica, is reputed to be the birthplace of the Emperor Diocletian. Again, forty miles from Cetinje, is the Monastery of

OSTROG, in which is the tomb of Montenegro's patron saint, Basil.

NIKŠIĆ, another centre, cultural rather than commercial, should be visited for its old Roman bridge, and for the beautiful church built by the late Russian emperor Nicholas II. Nikšić is easily reached from Dubrovnik, and from there a narrow road leads to the famous Black Lake (Crno Jezero), where one can enjoy the bathing and the trout-fishing.

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Nikšić really marks the division between two quite different Montenegros, one of bare limestone and the other of forests and luxuriant vegetation. Travellers who come to Montenegro via Peć should make a point of going to Podgorica via Kolasin and over the fine mountain range of the Komovi (over 7,000 feet). This road takes one through the Moraca Valley, and past the Moraca Monastery, which is a XIII-century foundation. Its museum houses literary rarities, and the frescoes are notable.

## BEOGRAD AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

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*Beograd — Smederevo — Topola and Oplenac —  
Sremski Karlovci — Novi Sad — Fruška Gora —  
Krušedol — Hopovo — Beočin — Ljubostinja —  
Kragujevac — Kraljevo — Vrnjci — Kruševac.*



## *Beograd and the Neighbourhood*

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BEOGRAD (Belgrade—the “White City”) has suffered bitterly all through history from occupying one of the most important strategic positions in Europe; standing on a high bluff at the junction of the Danube and the Sava it is the key to the Balkans. Century after century it has been besieged and sacked, and always—as if there were some hidden life force in the city itself—it has risen from its ruins. Celts, Illyrians and Romans built their forts on the end of the peninsula; Singidunum (a Celtic name by which it was known in the days of the Empire) was captured by Augustus and became not only an important military centre but a rich and flourishing town. Emperors were made by the Danubian legions and Decius was proclaimed at Singidunum, where he was born. When the western Empire fell, Belgrade was once again a frontier town, Byzantium striving to hold it against the Hungarians; it was finally captured by Stephen II of Hungary who was so determined to destroy the town that



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he actually transported the very stones to the other side of the Danube. Once again Byzantium took it and reversed the process; so the see-saw went on, now one side now the other being victorious. In the XII century Belgrade became a Serbian town for the first time and for a short period even the capital, and a description of the beauty of its buildings and its gardens makes sorry reading, for today not one of them remain. In 1456 the Turks appeared before its walls and after a desperate struggle lasting for a month, the town was forced to surrender and its surviving inhabitants were sent in chains to Constantinople. A Turkish city arose on the ruins and travellers waxed lyrical over the beauties of Belgrade; it was captured in A.D. 1688 by the Austrians, lost in A.D. 1700, recaptured in A.D. 1717 by Prince Eugene, only to fall into Turkish hands again in A.D. 1739. At last in A.D. 1806, Kara George, the Serbian leader, entered Belgrade in triumph and it became the capital of Serbia; even the Turkish massacres which followed the defeat of Kara George failed to stamp out the new spirit of the people; they rebelled again under Prince Miloš and finally the Turks granted a certain degree of independence to the town and withdrew to the fortress. The Turkish power was

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gradually crumbling; a small quarrel between the inhabitants and the garrison led to the governor bombarding the city, but it was his last act, except on April 6th, 1867, to hand over the keys of the citadel to Prince Michael and to withdraw with his men to Constantinople. At last the Serbs were masters in their own house, and must have dreamed that Belgrade had seen the last of war, but in 1914 the old walls were once more to hear the sound of artillery and to be battered by the guns of an enemy.

With such a history the visitor will not expect to find a town of ancient buildings; there still stands the Palace of Prince Miloš—one of those charming, two-storied, yellow-washed houses with high-pitched brown roof. Beside it is the very fine new Patriarchate built in the south Serbian style, opposite which is the present cathedral (soon to be replaced by a new edifice), also inspired by the style of the great epoch of Serbian ecclesiastical architecture.

In the Kralja Milana Ulica, with a garden between them, stand the Old and the New Royal Palaces; the "Old Palace" was built in 1882 and is still used for royal receptions, banquets, etc., while the "New Palace" was finished just before the World War and now houses the Art Gallery

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of Prince Paul. The larger part of its collection of pictures and magnificent sculptures were presented to the nation by the Prince Regent, who is famous throughout Europe as a connoisseur. On the ground floor are an immense variety of objects found in the prehistoric settlements near Beograd; they include a chariot drawn by two snakes driven by a male figure in flowing robes, while in the next room are gold masks and a bronze vase with a magnificent frieze of galloping horsemen and a stand on which are carved snakes, figures and hunting dogs; this last was found near Ohrid\* and is archaic Greek. There is a fine collection of Greco-Roman antiquities which have been found in Stobi in South Serbia, including two dancing fawns of the I century A.D., the smaller still standing on its original pedestal; there is a head of Constantine the Great which was found at Niš, his birthplace. In the medieval room are preserved the Gospel of Prince Miroslav, a Slavonic MS. of the XII century with beautiful illuminations, and the famous Code of Laws of Emperor Dušan. The works of the great sculptor Meštrović are best studied in this museum which boasts forty-four of his statues; one of the finest is that of his mother kneeling in prayer. There



VIEW FROM THE KALEMEGDAN, BEOGRAD



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are also to be seen some examples of the scarcely less good Yugoslav sculptor, Rosandić, notably a pair of doors in wood which were subsequently reproduced in bronze for a church in south Serbia. The pictures include a representative collection of the works of Yugoslav artists of the XIX and XX centuries, while in the French and English rooms are to be seen the works of such famous artists as Derain, Renoir, Matisse, Gauguin, Duncan Grant, Sickert, John Nash, Lavery, Rothenstein and Vanessa Bell.

The Ethnographical Museum has a fine collection of peasant costumes, carpets, household utensils, etc. There are also 2,000 records of folk songs, of great interest to the musician.

The greatest beauty and glory of Beograd is the Kalemegdan, which an enthusiastic Frenchman has described as the "Bois de Boulogne of Belgrade", wishing to convey the fact that it is the favourite resort of the citizens. This park, however, surpasses all its rivals in situation; its wooded sides fall precipitously down to the Danube and the Sava, among its flower-beds and its shady walks are the fortifications of a once-great citadel and from its terraces may be seen the great sweep of the Danube on its way to the east. Close to the entrance is the fine symbolic statue

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by Meštrović in honour of France, while on the farthest point on a high pillar is another of his best works—"The Victor"—a splendid nude figure with a sword in one hand and a falcon in the other. Close by is the entrance to the Roman well with its circular staircase with 400 steps, its level being below the waters of the Sava. Two small buildings now house the Military Museum; the first is devoted to the personal possessions of the late King Alexander, his uniforms, orders, writing-table, the uniform which he was wearing and the bloodstained motor-car in which he was driving when he was murdered in Marseilles. On the upper floor are weapons, uniforms and pictures dealing with the World War; many of the last are of the terrible retreat of the Serbian Army through the snows of the winter of 1915-16 and are strangely reminiscent of Meissonier's pictures of the retreat from Moscow, but these are more moving because they show not only an army, but old men, women and children. In the other building are arms and uniforms of the men who fought for Serbian independence throughout the centuries. Almost opposite is one of the few reminders of Turkish rule in Beograd—the tomb of Demade Ali Pasha, who from his love of justice and fair dealing was called "the Mother of the

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Serbs" and who was murdered in 1802 by mutinous Janissaries. The fortifications themselves are of different dates; well might the Turks call this hill "Kalemegdan—the Field of Battle"; one writer has counted that it has sustained seventeen sieges since the days of the Romans, besides innumerable civil brawls. Today it still provides the site for barracks and for the Military Geographical Institute.

At the other end of Beograd is the Topčider Park, spreading over a valley and low hills with many delightful walks. In it is the country palace of Prince Miloš, now used as a hunters' museum; it is a pretty building in the Serbian style and the bedrooms of the prince and his wife still contain their original furniture. Four miles farther on is the picturesque monastery of Rakovica, which was destroyed by the Turks and rebuilt by Peter the Great.

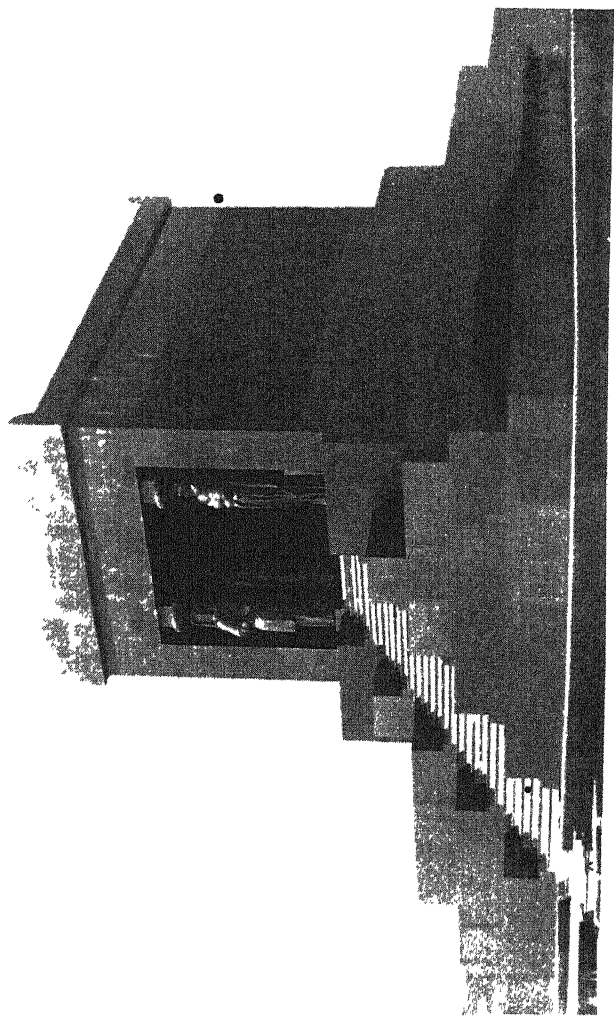
One of the greatest works of art of the XX century stands on the summit of Mount Avala, twenty minutes by motor-car from Beograd; this is the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier by Meštrović. Its splendid site commanding the city and the surrounding country for miles in every direction was chosen by the peasants who shortly after the World War found the body of a



## BEOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

soldier, carried it to the top of the hill and erected a simple cairn over his grave. This has now been replaced by the masterpiece of Meštrović; standing on a series of platforms made of blocks of dark grey granite, each weighing eight tons and so highly polished that they shine like looking-glass; the memorial resembling a small Greek temple is of the same granite. The roof is supported at either end by four caryatides, each representing a woman from a different province of Yugoslavia. Both ends of the temple are open and the entrances are reached by flights of steps, the actual tomb being in the centre of the building. Any possibility of heaviness from the use of granite is obviated by the reflections of light on the brilliantly polished surface. The whole work was paid for by the late King Alexander out of his private funds.

Pancevo (twenty minutes by motor-bus) lies on the other side of the Danube and is reached by crossing the splendid new bridge, nearly a mile in length. The low-lying land along the river has been reclaimed and a fine new road built. Pancevo is a pleasant little town and well worth a visit to see the magnificent iconostasis in the old Church. The carving is very fine as are the pictures which are the work of one of the best Yugoslav



MEMORIAL TO THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AT MOUNT VAIS



## BEOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

artists of the XIX century. It is regarded as the best modern iconostasis in the country.

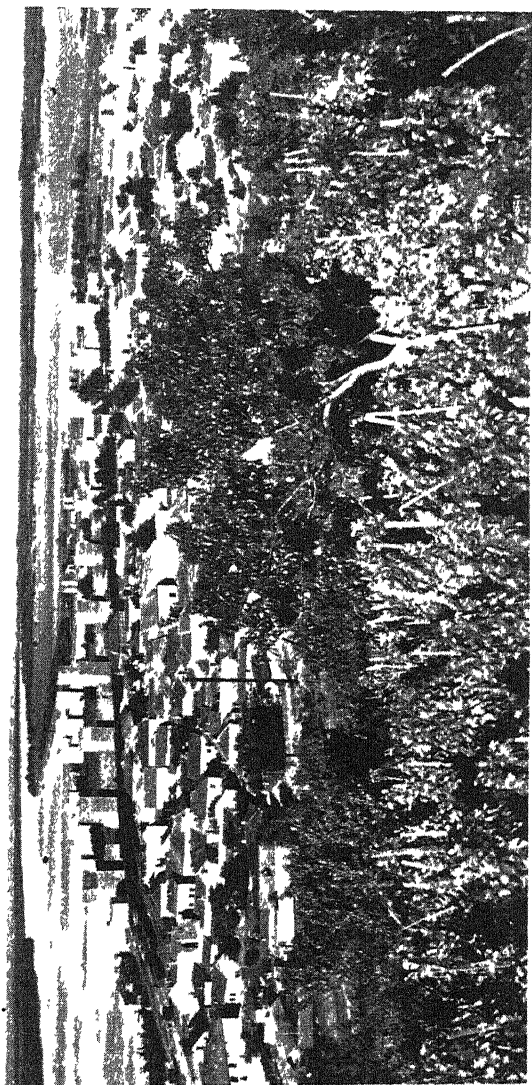
Two hours by motor-car or train, two and a half by steamer, lies one of the greatest medieval fortresses in the world—

**SMEDEREVO.** It was begun by the last Serbian “Despot”—i.e. ruler—George Brancović in A.D. 1429, a last despairing effort to defend what remained of the Serbian kingdom from the all-conquering Turks. If history speaks the truth it was finished in the following year, an amazing effort considering the size of the building. Many of the stones were brought from Roman ruins in the neighbourhood, a much defaced bas-relief is to be seen in the wall of one of the inner towers. The fortress itself was a copy of that of Constantinople and the “chief of works” was the Despot’s wife, Jerina, a sister of the then Emperor of Byzantium; so determined was she on the need for haste that her memory as a cruel employer is still commemorated in Serbian folk songs. The fortress stands on the bank of the Danube and was triangular in shape, one wall being on the little River Jezava; on the Danube there were large bastions to protect ships and an inner and an outer wall, while on the other two

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sides there was a triple line of walls. Of these only the inner with its twenty-four towers is still standing, but it is intact except for two breaches made by the Austrian guns when the fortress was held by the British Naval Brigade during the World War. The whole fortress covered thirty acres and the space within the present walls cannot be very much less. Of the splendid palace of Brancović not a trace remains, nor of the many buildings which surrounded it, but on one of the towers which defended the most important of the gates there may still be seen the date of the building of the castle and the statement that it was erected "In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Lord George Brancović, Lord of All Serbia and of the Littoral of Zeta. By his order was builded this city." For twenty-nine years Brancović reigned in Smederevo, maintaining himself by war and diplomacy against Hungarians and Turks alike; the fortress stood three sieges while its ruler tried vainly to unite Europe against the Turks. His death in A.D. 1456 was brought about by the treachery of a Hungarian noble and with him died Serbian independence. Three years later Smederevo was surrendered to the Turks.

The church in the town of Smederevo, which



SMEDEREVO ON THE DANUBE



## EOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

is practically destroyed during the World War, has been most beautifully restored; there are three superb grey marble pillars on each side of the nave, a fine white marble iconostasis and very interesting modern frescoes.

TOPOLA and OPLENAC. Two hours by motor-car from Beograd are the little village of Topola and the memorial church of Oplenac. Lying in the heart of the Šumadija, "the forest country", Topola is famous for having been the centre of the first Serbian insurrection in 1804; Karageorge himself lived there for twenty years before he organised his revolt against the Turks and returned there in the intervals of fighting. Except for one tower, originally part of his small fortress, all his buildings were destroyed by the Turks, but his *konak* or country house was restored by the late King Alexander. The church was rebuilt by the wife of Prince Miloš, the leader of the second insurrection, and contains fine iconostasis by the famous family of Aleksić, the wood-carvers from Galičnik in south Serbia. "On the hill above stands Oplenac and the great church which was begun by King Peter, The Liberator", before the World War to be the Mausoleum of the Karageorgević dynasty;



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it was completed by his son, the late King Alexander, and in it lie buried Karageorge himself, King Peter and King Alexander. Built entirely of white marble in the Serbian-Byzantine style, the whole of the interior is decorated with magnificent mosaics depicting the lives of St. George, of St. Sava and of medieval Serbian Saints and rulers. The mosaics cover an area of nearly 4,000 square feet and needed the employment of 15,000 shades of colour; inspired by the frescoes in the medieval monasteries they represent some of the finest examples of modern mosaics. Preserved in the church are the flags of sixty-one Serbian regiments, three of the flags dating from the days of Karageorge. On the platform outside are some of the cannons which were cast by that ruler, one of which was broken to provide the bronze for making the crown for the coronation of King Peter. Close to the church is the little villa which King Alexander built for himself so that he could superintend the completion of the church and on the south-east slope of the hills are the royal vineyards which, with the model farm, are a valuable lesson to the peasants of modern methods of agriculture.

VENCAC, five miles from Topola, is of interest

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to the sociologist for its model co-operative wine-cellars, established and operated solely by the peasants of the district. Members of the Board are always on duty, and are always glad to conduct the visitor round their cellars.

From Oplenac it is possible to visit the old monasteries of

RAVAICA and MANASIJA, both of which have fine frescoes and interesting libraries. From Manasija there is a road to Beograd over the Gornjak Pass by way of Kucevo and Pozarevac.

An hour by train from Belgrade on the main line to Vienna is

SREMSKI KARLOVCI (Karlowitz) so famous in Serbian history; when Arsenius III led the "Great Migration" into Austrian territory in A.D. 1690 he fixed his seat in this town and when the Patriarchate at Peć was finally suppressed by the Turks it was removed to Sremski Karlovci. It remained there until it was transferred to Belgrade in 1918.

Half an hour farther on lies

NOVI SAD on the banks of the Danube; above the river towers the great fortress built by Maria Teresa, the last of many which have stood there

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since the days of the Romans. The old town is behind the castle while the new town—the third largest in Yugoslavia—is on the other side of the river. It is the best starting-point for a visit to the

FRUŠKA GORA. “The Frankish Hills”, so called in remembrance of Charlemagne’s brief conquest. Covered with vines and woods they rise abruptly from the great Danubian plain and in their narrow valleys are some interesting and picturesque monasteries of the Orthodox Church. In each case the buildings date from the XVII or XVIII centuries and possess fine iconostasis,<sup>1</sup> but they stand on the sites of far older foundations which were destroyed in the wars with the Turks. Although by the time the present monasteries were built the danger had passed, their form shows how vivid was still the fear of attack; the churches are placed in a central courtyard and the buildings which surround them suggest the walls of a fort. The largest is

KRUŠEDOL (“The Valley of Pears”) about twenty miles from Novi Sad. Originally founded in the XV century, it was rebuilt between A.D.

<sup>1</sup> The screen in an Orthodox Church which divides the altar and sanctuary from the rest of the church.

## BEOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

1721 and 1751, the style of the church being strongly influenced by the churches in south Serbia. It contains the tomb of Arsenius III and also of King Milan. In the small museum is preserved the flag which Arsenius carried in the "Great Migration", fine Bibles with embossed gold covers and some beautiful XIII-century vestments which probably came from the monasteries in south Serbia. There are also many personal possessions of King Milan and a room entirely filled with furniture from his private suite in the Palace at Belgrade.

Fifteen miles farther on is

IRIG, a picturesque village, once the seat of a Turkish pasha whose house is still standing; close to it, hidden in a fold of the hills, is

HOPOVO. The narrow turning to the right off the main road which leads to the monastery is a Roman road with its original paving and a Roman inscription has been built into the north wall of the Church. The XVIII-century frescoes in the interior were most unfortunately painted over in the XIX century and are only faintly discernible. The monastery is now occupied by nuns; they originally belonged to a Russian foundation and

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fled from Poland during the German invasion to Rumania, only to be forced to fly again when that country in turn was overrun by the German forces. The late King Alexander, who had known the Mother Superior when he was a cadet in the Imperial Cadet Corps, offered them a refuge at the end of the War. There had been no nunneries of the Orthodox Church in Serbia for nearly 300 years, but Hopovo has now ten daughter convents with Yugoslav sisters.

On the hill, Venac, above Hopovo, there is a hotel with delightful views of the Fruška Gora and of the Danubian plain. Descending the wooded hillside and turning to the left in the village of Kamenica, the road runs along the Danube until about five miles farther another turn to the left leads to the monastery of

BEOČIN. The church was restored between A.D. 1732 and 1740 and has a very fine baroque iconostasis. The monastery is a rich foundation and has a beautiful garden. There are many other smaller monasteries in the Fruška Gora, but the fear of the Turks caused them to be built in the middle of woods in the most remote valleys, with the result that roads leading to them are rough and unsuitable for motor-cars.

## BEOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

Old Serbia is little known to the average traveller in spite of its historic interest. It lay on the main highway between east and west and contains many reminders of its past. The monasteries are as numerous and as full of fine paintings as those in south Serbia; many kings and queens retired to end their days within the peace of their walls. At

LJUBOSTINJA, near Kruševac, there is the tomb of Zarina Milica, wife of Prince Lazar who was killed at the battle of Kossovo in 1389; after her husband's death she retired to this monastery where she was joined by many of the widows of the nobles who had fallen with him. The Coronation Church at Žiža and the famous monastery of Studenica are described in the section dealing with south Serbia.

Another characteristic feature of Serbia is the number of health resorts and mineral spas; the most important are Arandjelovac, near Beograd, which is very popular, while farther south are Mataruška Banja and Jošanička Banja, both near Kraljevo, both of which stand in charming country, and there are many others.

In order to see more of Serbia a motorist would be well advised to continue his journey

## BEOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

from Oplenac from whence there is a good road to

KRAGUJEVAC, once the capital of the Serbian principality, the seat of the first parliament and the centre of its political struggles. It is today an important industrial centre. The road from Kragujevac to

KRALJEVO (see section on south Serbia), which is the next important town, leads through very picturesque country with many pleasant Šumadia villages, with their gay, red-roofed houses.

From Kraljevo the traveller has the alternative of going in three directions; to Sarajevo by road or rail over the splendid passes of Ovčar and Kablar, which on account of their many monasteries resemble Mount Athos, or through the town of Užica which is the starting-point for climbers and ski-ers going to the Zlatibor Hills. These are twenty miles from Užice and can be reached by motor-bus and are most popular both in summer and winter. The road from Užice leads via Višegrad to Sarajevo, passing over Mount Šargan with wonderful views of the countryside.

The railway follows the same route and is a real

## BEOGRAD AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

engineering feat, climbing the precipitous mountainside in a series of hair-pin bends. The pleasure and interest of the journey has been greatly increased by the introduction of motor-trains and the consequent elimination of smoke.

The third route from Kraljevo enables the traveller either by road or rail to turn east again through pleasant wooded hills to

VRNJCI, a popular spa for the treatment of internal disorders. It commands a fine view of the surrounding country and is very gay during the summer. Its attractiveness is increased by its proximity to the Goč mountains, a chain forming part of the great Kopaonik range. From Vrnjci it is possible to walk to Ljubostinja, while those who are fond of riding could easily hire horses and proceed to another famous medieval monastery

### KALENIC.

A short journey by road or rail takes the traveller to

KRUŠEVAC, an important junction on the Beograd-Skoplje line. It was the capital of Prince Lazar, whose church is still standing and serves today as the parish church.





# DOWN THE DANUBE

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*From Beograd to Prahovo*



## *Down the Danube*

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The journey from Vienna to Beograd by river-steamer takes thirty-six hours, the night being spent at Buda Pest; though pleasant, the voyage is not of particular interest as the river flows through the great central European plain. Between Beograd and the Bulgarian frontier lie the wonderful gorge of the Djerlap and the "Iron Gates"—the most wonderful "river scenery" in Europe. Two hours below Beograd stands the great fortress of Smederevo (for description see the section "Beograd and the Neighbourhood"); the banks on either side are low until the river begins to force its way through the Carpathian mountains; here the ruined fortress of Gobulatz stands on high rocks guarding the entrance to the narrows. In some parts the cliffs come sheer down into the water, sometimes they retreat so that the river forms miniature lakes and there are tiny villages among the trees; the circle of the mountains appear to be complete and it is hard to see how the river escapes to pursue its course

## DOWN THE DANUBE

to lose itself in the marshes on the edge of the Black Sea. Here and there are rocks or the wicked whirlpools of rapids and the ship threads its way along a buoyed channel. In the Djerlap gorge the stream narrows to 160 yards, and on the right bank cut in the face of the cliff are alternately a narrow path and small square holes into which were driven the wooden beams which supported one of the famous roads of the world—the Roman road whose makers refused to be daunted by precipices or overhanging cliffs. At the end of the gorge where the river widens out into a small lake there is to be seen a much defaced stone let into the face of the rock. It bears the inscription—“IMP. CAESAR DIVI. NERVAE F. NERVA TRAIANUS AUG. GERM. PONT. MAXIMUS . . .”; it commemorates the construction of the road in A.D. 103 and the first Dacian campaign of Trajan. Orsova on the left bank is a pleasant-looking little Rumanian town; immediately below it is the island of Ada Kaleh—amusingly described by a French writer as “that happy place which the diplomatists forgot when they were making their last treaties”. It was once strongly fortified by the Turks but today it is covered with trees, gardens and little villas.

Beyond Ada Kaleh are the famous “Iron Gates”



THE IRON GATES ON THE DANUBE



## DOWN THE DANUBE

—a name which to the English mind is perhaps more suggestive of some of the narrow passages of the Djerlap—they are really the terrible rapids, for centuries a danger to all craft on the river. Their impressiveness depends on the state of the water; when the river is low it rushes and swirls among the cruel rocks, when it is high there is nothing but eddies to tell of the dangers which lurk below. A passage for steamers, 90 yards wide and over two miles long, has been blasted close to the right bank and is protected by a high stone dyke. Close to the exit of the “Iron Gates” a semi-ruined fortress stands on the right bank, just above Kladovo; it was once the prison of Pašić, the famous Serbian statesman.

The river now widens out and becomes what might be described as “domesticated”. Large parties of cattle, sheep and even pigs are to be seen taking their daily bathes under its low banks; women come down to wash, and to spread their home-made linen to bleach in the sun; there are little wooden mills with the high pitched roofs and blunt bows of Noah’s arks. The landing-stages are thronged with peasants in gay-coloured costumes who have come to meet their friends or merely for the daily amusement of seeing the steamer. Finally the banks sink down



## DOWN THE DANUBE

until it is possible to see for miles across rich agricultural land and early in the afternoon the ship reaches Prahovo, close to the Bulgarian frontier, where there is a railway station, an inn and a local train for Niš.

## SOUTH SERBIA

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*Niš—Skoplje—The monasteries of Matka, Sv. Andreja, Sv. Nicola Šiševski—Tetovo—Čučera, in the Skopska Crna Gora—Bardovci—Markov Monastery—Sv. Panteleimon at Nerezi—Kumanovo—Sv. George at Staro Nagoričane—Matejić—Prizren—Skoplje to Ohrid—Ohrid—Monastery of Sv. Naum—Ohrid to Bitolj—Bitolj—Prilep—Veles—Gradsko—Skoplje to Beograd—Kosovo Polje—Kosovo—Peć—Monastery of “High Dečani”—Priština—Monastery of Gračanica—Monastery of Studenica—Coronation Church of Žiça.*



## *South Serbia*

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There are many reminders of Roman rule in south—or as its inhabitants like to call it “Old”—Serbia. Many flourishing and important towns existed all through the centuries of the Roman and Byzantine Empires; they enjoyed the advantages of lying on or near one or other of the great highways from the Adriatic to the eastern provinces. With the gradual collapse of the Byzantine Empire, the country by penetration and conquest passed into the hands of the southern Slavs. Here was established the first Serbian kingdom and here too was the cradle of the national Church, which became autocephalous as a result of the labours of St. Sava. There are hundreds of churches and monasteries, among which are the finest examples of Byzantine and early Serbian architecture and frescoes; a study of these works has led some scholars to believe that had it not been for the Ottoman conquest, the Renaissance would have had its birth in south Serbia. It was the habit of the kings, princes

## SOUTH SERBIA

and rich nobles to build and endow churches and monasteries; many of these have suffered during the Turkish occupation, in some cases the buildings or the frescoes were destroyed, in others the monks were compelled to fly and the churches were abandoned. Now many of them are carefully restored or at least rendered waterproof. The visitor who has in mind the monasteries of Italy, France or Austria will find that those of south Serbia are on a miniature scale. In most cases they are built of a mixture of brick and stone, the only external ornamentation being frequently a dog-tooth moulding over the door and windows; they vary in size from a church which would accommodate a congregation of perhaps fifty people to large buildings like the Patriarchate at Peć. Sometimes the monastery building has disappeared and the church stands alone on the outskirts of a tiny village or on a lonely hill.

For six hundred years the deadening hand of the Turkish Government weighed heavily on the land; there were not only resident official troops, large bodies of troops, there were also colonists sent to take the place of Christian families expatriated to Constantinople. Unlike the Bogomil heretics in Bosnia and Herzegovina the south Serbs clung stubbornly to their Christianity.

## SOUTH SERBIA

and as a result race and religion went hand in hand—the Christians were Serbs, the Moslems were Turks. It was not until the first Balkan War in 1912 that the country was liberated, only to fall again into enemy hands during the World War. Serbian, British and French troops broke through the Bulgarian-German lines in Macedonia in September 1918, and freed these lands. In subsequent years the country suffered from the agitation and outrages of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, but with the disappearance of that body of terrorists and the friendly understanding with Bulgaria, complete peace now reigns in what was formerly the storm centre of the Balkans. As a result of these changed conditions a new world of enchanting scenery, of historic monuments and artistic treasures has now become accessible to travellers.

Today, south Serbia is noted for the love of the peasants for their traditional way of life: there are many villages where it has not altered for hundreds of years. Sheep-farming is a major occupation in the remoter districts, although attempts are being made to extend tobacco plantations, the finest in Yugoslavia. The lower slopes of the mountains are overrun with game of all kinds, while higher up the popularity of winter

## SOUTH SERBIA

sports is increasing, and many mountaineers' huts are now being constructed.

There are two—or even three—routes to south Serbia. The Orient Express and the fast trains to Istambul and Athens pass through Niš and Skoplje; slower trains go via Kraljevo and Kosovo. Niš can also be reached by taking the Danube steamer to Prahovo and then a local train. The following itinerary assumes that the traveller will take the fast train via Niš to Skoplje, proceeding to Ohrid and Bitolj by motor-bus and return via Kosovo and Kraljevo.

Visitors should always carry their passports as they may be asked for them at unexpected moments. Strong shoes are advisable, as many of the older streets in the towns still have Turkish cobblestones and some of the churches and monasteries lie off the main road and can only be reached on foot.

The journey from Beograd to

NIŠ (Nish) takes just over five hours by a fast train. Niš was an important city in the days of the Romans, but it has changed hands too often for it to retain any historic buildings except—appropriately enough—the great castle which stands on the banks of the Morava.

## SOUTH SERBIA

Travellers who have the time available ought to visit Niska Banja, a resort near Niš. The famous calvary of skulls (*Cele kula*), erected to commemorate the heroic struggle of the Serbs in 1809, and praised by Lamartine in his *Travels in the East*, is to be seen here.

To the north of Niš lies Soko Banka, on the main line to Belgrade. As a resort it is known as a watering-place, but the excellent fresh-water fishing facilities deserve a special mention.

Three hours south of Niš the train passes the edge of the plain of

KUMANOVO, the scene of the great Serbian victory over the Turks in the Balkan War of 1912. An hour farther on is

SKOPLJE (Uskob), the chief city of south Serbia which was successively the capital of the Illyrian tribe of the Dardanians and of the Roman province of Dardania; it changed its name to Justinana Prima in honour of the Emperor Justinian who was born in the neighbourhood. It was captured by Dušan, the ruler of the great Serbian kingdom and in A.D. 1346 he was crowned there as "Emperor of the Serbians, the Albanians and the Greeks". It was a centre of art and



## SOUTH SERBIA

learning and law; it was also one of the greatest centres of commerce in the Balkans, and all the rich caravans which travelled incessantly backwards and forwards between Dubrovnik, Ragusa and Constantinople passed through Skoplje. After the fall of Dušan's empire it was one of the chief towns in the Turkish dominions until it was once again taken by the Serbs after their victory at Kumanovo, but it was not till after the end of the World War that the Yugoslav Government was able to set about the modernisation of the city. This has been done by building a new town on the left bank of the River Vardar and leaving intact the picturesque Turkish city with its mosques, its winding streets, its low houses and its hidden gardens.

The two parts are united by the Bridge of the Emperor Dušan, which bears an inscription saying that it was built by the Sultan Murad in the XV century, but it is obviously of Roman construction and he probably only repaired it. Above it towers the great fortress which was built—or rather rebuilt—by Justinian, for a Mycenaean fortress had stood on the site and its cyclopean blocks may still be seen embedded in the Roman walls. Serbs, Turks and now again Serbs have altered and enlarged it, for it commands one of

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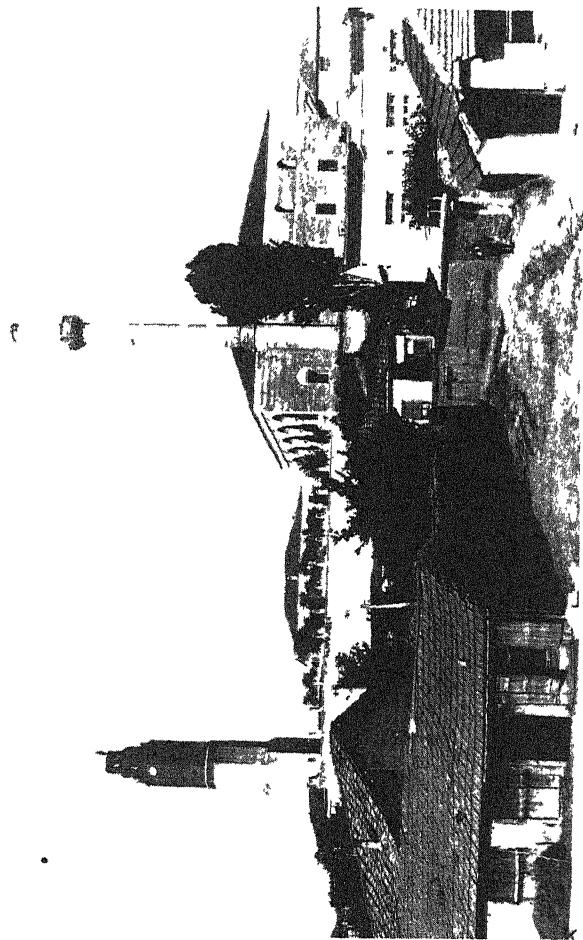
the highways of the Balkans. In a narrow street near the castle is the small ancient Church of Sv. Spas—St. Saviour; it is easily found as it has a detached wooden belfry erected by King Alexander, belfries being forbidden by the Turks. The entrance is through a courtyard filled with flowers and shrubs and the church itself is partially below the level of the ground so that it might not offend the eyes of the "Faithful". It contains some of the finest wood carving of the brothers Filopić from Galičnik which dates from 1829. The pillars of the iconostasis are carved out of single tree trunks, the work standing out four or five inches; on the two centre pillars is the story of the Garden of Eden, and on the wall on the right hand side of the iconostasis is a charming little group of the three brothers at work. The pulpit was unfortunately gilded over by the Bulgarians when they occupied Skoplje during the World War. In the stone floor there is a representation in mosaic of the crown of Emperor Dušan.

Close to Sv. Spas is the famous Kuršumli Han—the great caravanserai, said to have been built by the Romans, which housed all the ambassadors and rich merchants on their way to and from Constantinople. It is square and immensely

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strong, there being no windows on the ground floor for fear of robbers. It is built round a courtyard which has two loggias from which the rooms open off, each having its own fireplace. It is now used as a museum for the Roman sculptures and inscriptions found in or around Skoplje, but one of the rooms has been left in its original state as it awaited its occupant, who of course brought his own bedding, carpets, etc. The immense stables at the back are used by the Municipality and beside it is a semi-ruined building, once the baths which belonged to the caravanserai. One can imagine the pleasure and relief of the travellers who at last found themselves in this "*de-luxe* hotel" after riding over the stony and dangerous tracks of the Balkans.

Skoplje boasts forty mosques; the most beautiful, if not the largest, is that of Mustapha Pasha, built in the XV century, with its marble portico and pillars, the domes having stylised designs in a lovely powder blue. The tomb of the founder stands as usual in the courtyard and from the terrace there is a delightful view of the old town, the low, brown-roofed houses seeming to crouch among their trees. The largest mosque is that of Sultan Murad, erected in A.D. 1430, which is close to the XVII-century clock-tower. Also close



MOSQUES AT SKOPLJE



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to this mosque is the monastery of the Rufaija Dervishes; Skoplje is one of the few places where "infidels"—men and women—are allowed to attend Moslem ceremonies, and visitors who are in that city on Friday's should not miss seeing the curious Dervish dances at this monastery at 2 p.m. Beyond the old town is the gypsy quarter; there are a large number of these "Egyptians" as they are called locally, who live permanently in Skoplje, the women being easily distinguished by their long, baggy trousers. Just on the outskirts of the gypsy quarter is the ruined aqueduct of Justinian, of which about a quarter of a mile still remains.

Returning to the new town, on the left-hand side of the square at the end of the bridge of Emperor Dušan, is a large modern building of the Yugoslavia Bank; an entrance in the side street leads to the Museum on the third floor. Here are to be seen models of some of the finest of the monasteries and churches of south Serbia, as well as exact reproductions of the best of the frescoes. On the floor above is a beautiful collection of the local costumes, which are extraordinarily rich in gold and silver thread embroideries, the head-dresses being trimmed with gold coins. There are also interesting models of "Christian" and Turkish houses. Many of the peasants are still

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to be seen wearing their costumes when they come to the city on Tuesday, which is market day. The bazaar in Skoplje is famous for its fine filigree work, south Serbia being the part of the country where this particular craft has been carried on in the same families since the Middle Ages. A Roman theatre has recently been excavated at Skupi, the site of the ancient Skoplje, which is one of the largest in existence. The country as a whole is full of Greek and Roman antiquities.

There are so many interesting churches and monasteries to be seen in the neighbourhood of Skoplje that it is only possible to mention a few of them, choosing those most easily accessible to the visitor.

The monasteries of

MATKA, SV. ANDREJA and SV. NIKOLA ŠIŠEVSKI all stand on the Treska, a mountain river which flows through a gorge which reproduces the great defile of the Danube on a miniature scale. Matka and Sv. Andreja can be reached by car in about three-quarters of an hour, or by motor-bus to Glumovo station, from where it is a delightful walk up the valley to Matka, while Sv. Andreja is twenty minutes farther on. The monastery buildings at Matka still line two sides of

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the courtyard and are very simple, with a wooden veranda; the church is tiny and the frescoes are much defaced. There is an inn with an orchard beside the monastery where wine, beer and coffee may be had. After Matka the gorge narrows and the limestone hills come sheer down into the river; a power station has been built across the narrowest part and a path blasted out of the rock which leads to the Church of St. Andreja. The monastery buildings have disappeared but the little church, which was built in A.D. 1389, has been carefully restored; the frescoes, which date from the same period as the church, are some of the most interesting medieval work in south Serbia. Below the church the river widens out into a lovely little lake of the most vivid green water and on the opposite height may be seen the buildings of Sv. Nikola Šiševski. This may be reached by returning to the power station and crossing a footbridge below it and following a very steep path up the hill. There is a fine view from the top and the church contains some interesting frescoes.

TETOVO, about an hour beyond Glumovo, also reached by motor-bus, has a very fine painted mosque which stands by the river, and some extremely picturesque Turkish houses. It should



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be visited on Saturday morning to see the market and the costumes of the peasants from the surrounding mountain villages. Tetovo is also a starting-point for mountaineers and ski-ers whose goal is the fine ski-ing grounds and the peaks of Šar-planina. This mountain, whose top is always covered with snow and is visible from Skoplje, enjoys a greater reputation as a ski-ing ground than any other in the country. It has two well-equipped mountain hostels.

In the foothills of the Crna Gora, the mountains close to Skoplje, are two very small but interesting churches at

ČUČERA, about one and a half hours in a victoria with two horses, the popular and inexpensive local conveyance. On the top of a low hill is the monastery Church of St. Nikita, with fine frescoes dating from the early XIV century; it was, like so many churches in the neighbourhood, a foundation of King Milutin. In the village at the foot of the hill is the small church dedicated to St. George; here the frescoes are more primitive. It is as well to visit this district on Sunday afternoon, for then all the peasants are to be seen in their costumes when they assemble to dance the *kola*.

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**BARDOVCI**, five miles from Skoplje, is close to the site of old Skoplje (Skupli), the town having been rebuilt by Justinian where it now stands; there is the interesting feudal mansion of Avzi Pasha, one of the only examples of this type of house still in existence. It is surrounded by high walls and in the days of its prosperity was practically a self-contained village.

**MARKOV MONASTERY** can be reached in dry weather in a motor-car (fifteen miles) or by taking the train to Sušice and walking for two and a half hours; it is the largest and most important monastery in the neighbourhood, having been founded and built by Kraljević Marko in A.D. 1371, the frescoes in the church dating from the same period. It is defended by walls and towers and looks more like a fortress than a monastery.

**SV. PANTELEIMON** at **NEREZI** is among the most important examples of the Byzantine period; it was built by Alexis Comnenos in A.D. 1164 on a slope of the hills six miles from the city. Some of the frescoes near the altar are by Greek painters, while others were added by Slav artists in the XIII and XIV centuries.

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KUMANOVO, on the main line to Niš (an hour by train), is the starting-point for a visit to the Church of

### SV. GEORGE at STARO NAGORIČANE.

The road leads across the wide plain, which is dominated by a tall pillar in memory of the great Serbian victory. Twenty minutes by car from Kumanovo are the ruins of a great ecclesiastical centre where there once stood as many as twelve churches. One has been restored and contains some interesting primitive frescoes.

NAGORIČANE, a small village some twenty minutes farther on, is dominated by the beautiful Church of Sv. George, one of the finest examples of early Serbo-Byzantine architecture. It is built in a mixture of brick and stone, while the frescoes, which date from the early XIV century, are exquisite in colour and full of emotion and movement. Especially fine are a Crucifixion on the north wall, a St. George killing the dragon outside the walls of a castle while delighted spectators crowd the roof; the picture of the Madonna on the sanctuary wall has unfortunately been much defaced, but it is still possible to see the tender-

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ness of her attitude as she stoops to kiss the infant Christ.

In the hills on the other side of Kumanovo is the monastery of

MATEJIC, which stands 3,000 feet above the plain, but is now accessible by road. It was built in the end of the XIII century and contains some extremely fine frescoes.

PRIZREN. Those who are specially interested in medieval art should not fail to visit the old town Prizren, which for a long time was the centre of Serbian power. It is full of half ruined and some well preserved old churches and monasteries. It is connected by motor-bus line with Skoplje. In the middle ages for some years the capital of Serbia, and the burial city of Emperor Dušan, the greatest ruler that Serbia produced. It was also a famous commercial centre for caravans coming from Dubrovnik and going to the East and vice versa. In Serbian history it played an important role and is full of historic memories. It is still the home of exquisite filigree work and supplies Dubrovnik and other cities with its artistic products. The costumes are famous and original, both in colour and in design.

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### SKOPLJE TO OHRID.

A comfortable motor-bus leaves Skoplje every morning for Ohrid, a run of 140 miles. At first the road runs across the plain to Tetovo and to Gostivar, a village of no particular interest; it then climbs in long loops up the Vlajinica Mountains, with beautiful views of the Skopska plain and the Crna Gora. A stop of three-quarters of an hour is made at Mavrovi Hanovi (4,600 feet) to allow the passengers to lunch. Immediately afterwards the road plunges into the wooded gorge of the Radika, which is so narrow that there is room only for the stream and the road, the latter having in many places been blasted out of the side of the cliff. The owner-driver should proceed with care, for though the road is well engineered it is narrow and very winding, and there is much local traffic—country carts and pack ponies, usually in the middle, if not on the wrong side, of the road. Where the cliffs are too precipitous to give foothold to even the most enterprising tree, there are strange rocks striped in grey and rose alternately. After twenty miles the mountain walls recede a little, and white and brown villages are to be seen clinging precariously to the hillsides. In one of these villages on the left side is to be seen the tower of the monastery of Sv. Jovan Bigorski.

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Those who wish to visit it should arrange to send their luggage on by the motor-bus, take only what they need for the night, and sleep at the monastery. It was founded in A.D. 1020, but the church is of a later date, and contains a large number of valuable ikons. The iconostasis was carved by the brothers Filopić of Galičnik, which is quite close. The costumes of the women in this gorge are particularly beautiful; their sleeveless coats of sheepskin with the wool inside are embroidered with gold and silver thread, and the fronts are edged with globular silver buttons. At the end of the defile is a fine old Turkish bridge over the Radika and shortly afterwards on the right is a right-angled turn which leads to Debar, a large village of Turkish houses which looks across the wide plain of the Black Drin. The motor-bus, after a brief stop, returns to the road for Ohrid, which follows the windings of the Black Drin to Struga, another predominantly Turkish village. From there the road runs along the Lake shore and the first glimpse of Ohrid is of the great castle of the Stari Saraj on the great bluff above the town.

OHRID (Ochrid) seems to crouch on the slopes of the bluff, still dominated by the mighty walls

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and towers of the great castle of the Turkish family of Bjellalenedebeg, who rose to such power under the Sultans that until A.D. 1830 they were virtually independent princes. Ohrid has known many masters; there was the Greek colony of Lychnidos which was captured by the Romans in A.D. 168; it became an important town as it was on the Via Ignatia which ran from Durazzo to Salonica, and there are records of a Christian bishop in the V century. Nothing is known of its subsequent history until mention is made of a Slav settlement when it acquired its present name. When the followers of St. Methodius were expelled from Moravia in the IX century two brothers—Kliment and Naum—reached Ohrid after many wanderings and—very wisely—determined to settle there. They built churches and monasteries both in the town and the surrounding country, which became a centre of Christianity and Slav culture; Kliment was the first Slav bishop, to be succeeded after his death by his brother. For over 200 years Slavs and Byzantines fought for the possession of the town, until in A.D. 1334 it was finally captured by the Emperor Dušan. There followed a period of great prosperity when princes and nobles vied with each other in founding churches or rebuilding old ones. But with the Turkish conquest of the

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Balkans the town passed into their hands, and Sv. Sofia, Klimeht's cathedral, became a mosque. Otherwise apparently the life of the inhabitants was but little affected until Skanderbeg, the Albanian chief, swooped down and took it in a daring raid; after its recapture by the Turks many of its citizens were transported to Constantinople and even today the town has almost as many Turkish inhabitants as Christian. It remained part of the Ottoman Empire until the Balkan War of 1912, and after the World War it was one of the first places to welcome the Serbian troops when they broke through the Bulgarian lines in September 1918.

Ohrid is a very difficult place for the conscientious sightseer; the little streets with their overhanging houses and incessant glimpses of the lake present endless temptations to wander from the not straight but very narrow path. There are several interesting churches; as they are always locked it is as well to take a guide from the hotel who can find the sacristan with the keys. Just on the right of the little square by the lakeside is the Kraljica Marija Ulica which leads to Sv. Sofia; on the left is Sv. Nikola Bolnički, built early in the XIV century, with fine frescoes of that date with portraits of the Emperor Dušan, his wife



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Jelena and his son Uroš. Sv. Sofia is in a semi-ruinous state. It is the largest and most famous church in Ohrid; founded by St. Kliment himself, the basilica dates from the IX century but stands on the site not only of a still older church but of a Pagan temple. It was originally the cathedral until it was turned into a mosque, the frescoes were whitewashed and a nimbar (which still remains) and a minaret (which has been pulled down) were added. In 1905 the church was much damaged by an earthquake, but has now been made weather-tight and the whitewash scraped off some of the frescoes. They have been badly damaged, but on the north wall is still to be seen the figure of Sv. Sofia and her two companions, while in the narthex are figures of saints. Built into the wall of the gallery over the narthex is a bas-relief of a centaur. Sv. Kliment, which became the cathedral after the loss of Sv. Sofia, stands within the circle of the lower walls of the castle; the easiest (though longest) way to reach it is to take the street uphill opposite the enormous plane tree in the middle of the town and follow the road, which goes round the side of the bluff. Turning to the left after the entrance gate in the wall, Sv. Kliment is on the top of a little eminence. Founded in A.D. 1295, it was enlarged in A.D. 1365; it contains some

## SOUTH SERBIA

fine ikons, but most of the frescoes have either become black with age or been varnished. The exterior of the East end is interesting, with the fine "dog-tooth" mouldings round the arches of the apse and the windows of the cupola. The belfry is modern, but in a small chamber at its base are preserved two Greek bas-reliefs. A little street and then a rough path leads round the hill over the lake to the small church of Sv. Jovan, which stands most beautifully on the top of a cliff; it also dates from the XIV century. There is a wonderful view of the lake and the surrounding hills from the castle, "best at sunset".

Beside the little quay there is a small public garden, and beyond along the lake shore there is a shady walk and the new hotels, with landing-stages in front for bathers. The lake once formed part of the sea which covered the Pannonian plain and in its depths are still found fish which otherwise are only known as fossils. More interesting to the ordinary traveller are the trout, a distinct species rather resembling a salmon trout, for which Ohrid has been famous since the days of the Romans; they were so much appreciated by the Turks that relays of couriers used to be organised to supply the needs of the gourmets of Constantinople. The fishing-boats are a strange shape

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which has not varied since pre-historic days; they have high, square bows with seats for two rowers who sit one above the other, while a third man stands in the stern and sculls.

At the southern end of the lake, twenty miles from Ohrid, stands one of the most famous monasteries of south Serbia—

SV. NAUM. It can be reached by a motor-boat in two hours or by a motor-car in about three quarters of an hour; there is the usual disagreement as to which is the pleasanter way. The boat provides lovely views of the lake and of the surrounding mountains, while going by land it is possible to visit the monastery of Sv. Stefan and the little fishing village of Peštane. Visitors should enquire on what days the boat is running, as except in July and August it does not run every day. Sv. Naum stands in a most beautiful position on a high rock over the lake; poplars fringe the shore below it and the Black Drin rushes out of a little pool and crosses the lake to force its way through the mountains of Albania and reach the Adriatic at S. Giovanni di Meduà. The church was built between A.D. 900 and 905 by Sv. Naum himself, but was probably reconstructed in the XIII century. Some of the frescoes have un-



THE MONASTERY OF SV NAUM ON LAKE OHRID



## SOUTH SERBIA

happily suffered from many restorations and wars; even in the World War a shell pierced the cupola but fortunately failed to explode. On the north wall there is a fine portrait of Sv. Johan Vladimir, the first king of old Serbia; in a tiny chapel on the right is the miracle-working tomb of Sv. Naum; above it is a fresco of the death of the saint and his portrait at the head. The iconostasis is elaborately carved but is obviously of a much later date than the church. The modern belfry was given by the King Alexander and in the monastery are the simply furnished rooms which were occupied by him and Queen Marie when they spent three weeks at Sv. Naum in 1926. Along the bottom of the wooded hills at the back runs the Albanian frontier. Visitors are given lunch at the monastery and can stay there.

### OHRID TO BITOLJ

A motor-bus runs twice daily from Ohrid to Bitolj in about three hours. The road is far less beautiful than that from Skoplje to Ohrid; there is first a small gorge and then a low pass which leads down to the large village of Resan. Near by is the lake of Prespa, the largest lake in the Balkans, which may be seen as the motor-bus climbs the hill beyond Resan.

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BITOLJ (Monastir) has never recovered from the World War, and the town still bears traces of the bombardment that it suffered when it was held by the Allied armies. There are many mosques, the finest being that of Hajdar Pasha; there is an interesting covered Turkish market, one of the few remaining in the country. About a mile from the town are the ruins of the Roman city of Heracleia which stood on the Via Ignatia. Bitolj is a microcosm of the many races of the Balkans, and many different costumes are to be seen in the narrow streets.

There is now a broad line from Bitolj to Skoplje, passing through

PRILEP, the city of the Prince Marko; he was the son of King Vudaškin, the hero of many struggles against the Turks, his exploits being chronicled in many celebrated ballads. On the right of the railway (going north) may still be seen the ruins of his castle, perched like an eagle's nest among the rocks on the top of a hill; below is the Church and Monastery of St. Demetrius. The line then plunges into and through the Babuna mountains, stopping at the little station of Bogomile whose name is reminiscent of the heretics of the Bogomil sect which

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flourished in south-eastern Europe in the Middle Ages.

VELES is a picturesque town lying on the slopes above the Vardar; little of it can be seen from the railway station.

Half an hour south of Veles, on the main line to Athens, is

GRADSKO, close to the Roman city of Stobi. An amphitheatre capable of seating 1,000 persons has already been excavated; many of the most valuable statues and inscriptions found on this site are now in the Prince Paul Museum at Beograd.

Continuing the journey, the train reaches Skoplje in an hour from Veles.

### SKOPLJE TO BEOGRAD VIA KOSOVO AND KRALJEVO

Returning by the alternative route there is the opportunity of visiting some of the largest and most famous of the Serbian monasteries and churches—the old Patriarchate at Peć; Dečani, near Peć; Gračanica near Priština; Studenica, near Ušće and the Coronation Church at Žiça near Kraljevo. Of these only Peć, Gračanica, Dečani and Priština are geographically speaking in south Serbia, but they were all within the original



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Serbian kingdom, so it seems more logical to group them together.

Four and a half hours north of Skoplje is the new railway junction of

KOSOVO POLJE. It stands on the plain which saw the tragic defeat of the Serbian army by the Turks in A.D. 1389; as has often been said, other nations celebrate their victories but the Serbians have never forgotten Kosovo. The death of King Lazar, of his nine foster brothers who, one after another, sacrificed their lives in defence of their king, and of the other heroes who died where they stood, are all celebrated in hundreds of poems and ballads which for 500 years helped to keep alive both pride of race and the hope of freedom. At

KOSOVO is the tomb of Sultan Murad who was killed in the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. It is said that the guardians of the tomb are descendants of the same family.

On the Kosovo field there are to be found the ruins of the old Serbian city of Zvečan, which once was the capital of the kingdom.

It is popularly believed that red flowers that cover the field of Kosovo in spring are red from

## SOUTH SERBIA

the blood of the heroes that were killed in the battle in 1389.

The tomb of Miloš, a great Serbian hero who killed Sultan Murad, is near the Turkish chapel Gazimestan, which was the scene of the fiercest fighting.\* Gazimestan offers the best view of the whole field which was chosen in advance to be the theatre of the battle.

There too may be seen the old church Samodreža, in which the Serbian army, according to tradition, received the Holy Communion on the eve of the battle.

Three hours from Kosovo Polje by a branch line is

PEĆ at the entrance to the Čakor Pass. It was the "Holy City" of old Serbia and, with two brief intervals, was the seat of the Patriarchate from the XIV to the XVIII century. It is a picturesque, ramshackle little town, with Turkish houses and three mosques. A mile away the very interesting Church of the Patriarchate stands beside a little stream surrounded by trees, the rocky mountains of Montenegro frowning above it. It does not conform to the usual style of Serbo-Byzantine architecture, for it is really three churches built at different times and of different materials, united

## SOUTH SERBIA

by a narthex out of which they open like three aisles. The earliest dates from the XIII century and contains some carved marble tombs of the bishops of that period; the fine frescoes are as varied in date as the churches, some in an excellent state of preservation. Among the best is a series of the "saints militant" on the north wall of the first church on the right; one holds a lance, another a battle-axe, and all are dressed in an interesting mixture of Roman and late medieval armour. The exterior exhibits the same mingling of styles, some of the mouldings round the windows showing the influence of Gothic; there are still some traces of the frescoes which must have covered the whole of the walls.

THE MONASTERY OF "HIGH DEČANI" lies at the entrance of just such another gorge, on the edge of a stream, and surrounded by woods; it is about ten miles from Peć and to reach it the usual bargain should be made with one of the drivers of the aged but still serviceable Fords. The old farm-houses on the way, with their high walls and lack of windows on the ground floor, are eloquent reminders of the days when blood feuds were common. No wise man gave his enemy the chance of shooting him when he sat by his fire-

## SOUTH SERBIA

side. The beautiful and famous Church of Dečani provides an even greater surprise than the Patriarchate: it seems to have been transported bodily from the Dalmatian coast. The mystery is easily explained, for King Stefan Uroš III invited a Franciscan Friar, Vid, from Kotor to act as his architect. The church, which is almost pure Romanesque, was finished in A.D. 1335 and the frescoes were added two years later by the Emperor Dušan. The church is built in courses of cream and rose marble, the doorways and windows being surrounded by fine carved mouldings. It has three aisles and a central dome, the whole of the interior being covered with over a thousand magnificent frescoes in a good state of preservation. Perhaps the most interesting is the family tree of the Nemanja dynasty, each figure being a portrait. Stefan Uroš himself lies in a tomb in front of the iconostasis. Nearby are two great candles which have never been lit since his death in A.D. 1331. There is another and even more interesting candle which was given in A.D. 1394 by Queen Milica, the widow of King Lazar, with the proviso that it was only to be lit when the heroes of Kosovo had been avenged; 330 years passed, and then the late King Alexander was able to carry out the wishes of the long dead Queen.

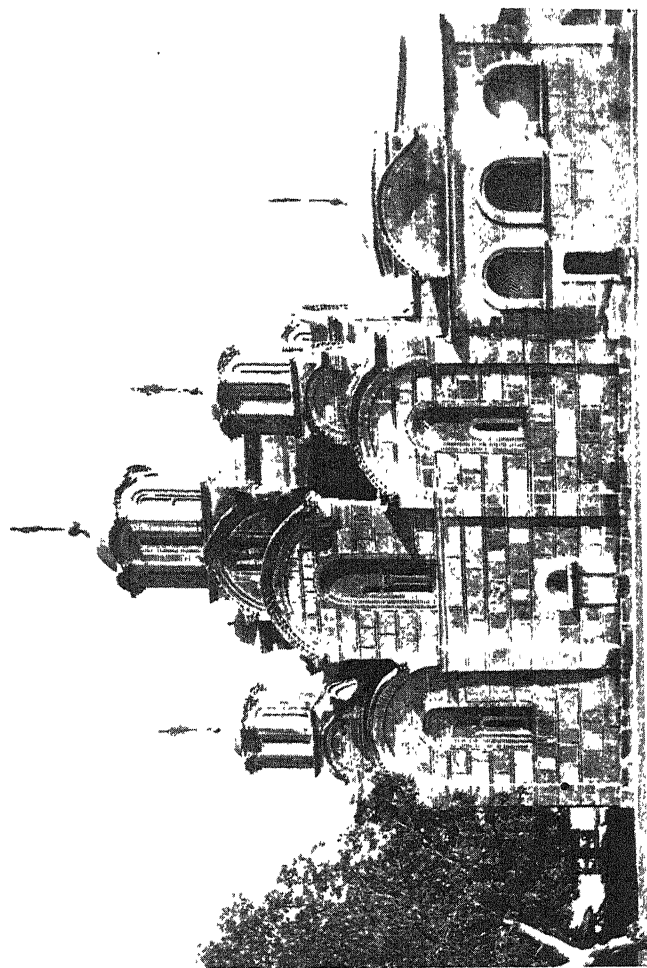
## SOUTH SERBIA

From Peć a regular motor-bus service runs along the new road by the great gorge of the Rugovo, where tunnels have had to be cut out of the side of the cliff, over the mountains of Montenegro to Cetinje and down to the Adriatic coast at Kotor.

Returning to Kosovo Polje, another local train runs in twenty minutes to

PRIŠTINA, another small town still predominantly Turkish in appearance; there are several mosques, the finest being beside the clock-tower. A carriage can be hired at the station for the drive to the Church of

GRAČANICA, eight miles away. It is one of the largest and finest of the churches of the early XIV century, having been built by King Milutin in A.D. 1321. It stands on the site of an older building, of which traces may still be seen in the narthex, while the base of a Roman memorial stone still bearing its inscription has been placed upside down in the floor and serves as a reading-desk. The present church has three naves and five cupolas, the beauty of the exterior depending on the wonderful use made of brick and a deep cream-coloured stone. The frescoes have been



THE MONASTERY OF GRAČANICA



## SOUTH SERBIA

badly damaged, but there is still an interesting portrait of King Milutin on the right-hand pillar and a much-blackened family tree of the Nemanja kings on the same pillar. A new wall and monastery buildings have just been erected in keeping with the architectural style of the church, around a large courtyard.

Lunch can be obtained in Priština and a train caught to connect with the main-line train to Beograd. From Kosovo Polje it is a journey of three hours to Ušće, the station for

STUDENICA, one of the oldest monasteries in the country. Unfortunately the possibility of obtaining a conveyance in the small village of Ušće is very problematical, and the monastery lies some miles away in the mountains. The church was built in A.D. 1183 by the Grand Zupan Stefan, the founder of the Nemanja dynasty; it is of white marble and shows a strong Romanesque influence. The original frescoes date from the reign of Vukan, Stefan's son, and include portraits of Stefan himself and of Sv. Sava; others were added in the XIV and XVI centuries.

An hour north of Ušće, also on the main line, is Kraljevo, an uninteresting little town, but only four miles from



## SOUTH SERBIA

ŽIČA, the Coronation Church of the Kings of the first Serbian Kingdom and the first seat of the archbishops. It stands on a high bank over a stream and is now surrounded by modern monastery buildings. It is unique among the Churches in Yugoslavia as the exterior is "imperial" red; in addition to three cupolas it has a square tower over the large narthex. It was founded by King Stefan, "The First-Crowned", in about A.D. 1207, but was twice deserted by the monks, first during the Tartar and then during the Turkish invasions. The frescoes were added by King Milutin in the XIV century but have been badly damaged.

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